Police call in psychiatrist

Fitness teacher held by two armed men in 36-hour ordeal

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

JOANNA Grenside, the aerobics teacher who vanished from outside a Hertfordshire sports centre on Tuesday, yesterday described to police how wo men armed with a knife idnapped her and held her lindfolded in a bare, cold com for 36 hours.

She was so scared of her nductors, who remained sint. that she kept the black otton blindfold on even hough she was not bound and was left for hours on her own. Throughout her imprisnment she was only given a up of tea and a mug of water. Yesterday Detective Super-itendent Ian Whinnett, leading the investigation into the -year-old woman's disappearance, said it was obvious Aiss Grenside had been subexted to a harrowing ordeal ind it might take days to iscover exactly what had appened.

Originally the police had aid that Miss Grenside had ot been sexually assaulted, esterday Mr Whinnett said it as now unclear whether she ad been raped or not. Last night police said a

orensic psychiatrist would ow see Miss Grenside, who ad become extremely disessed as she described what ad happened to two specially rained women police officers. The interviews were stopped, ulthough the young woman is see only witness police have at moment and the only rce of information for their

Miss Grenside, of larpenden, Hertfordshire as abducted after driving the ort distance from her home e leisure centre where she due to take a keep fit class 60 people on Tuesday ing. Her locked car was d in the car park about ce began an extensive

using a helicopter. and dogs in a hunt for to her disappearance.

family became increasingly concerned about her safety.

Miss Grenside's disappearance was first spotted by Dennis Davis, her boyfriend, who also works at the sports centre. He began a search and found her Ford Escort which

led to the police hunt.
Miss Grenside reappeared on Thursday morning, walking into the leisure centre wearing the clothes in which she had vanished. She had been left in a nearby park and walked through the fog to the

Mr Whinnett said that as the young woman left her car she was aware of someone behind her and felt a sharp object in the middle of her back. The attack was so sudden she was unable to use a rape alarm later found by police in the car park.

She was dragged to a vehicle which was driven by another man. From there the detective said Miss Grenside. sitting on the back seat and blindfolded, was taken on an hour-long journey which included a motorway before being taken into a dark and damp room at a house where she was held for the next 36

The room contained no furniture and the woman was forced to remain there walking about feeling her way. She was given nothing apart from the tea and water. When she asked to use the toilet, she was led blindfolded to a lavatory. She could not hear any sounds from outside the building.

Police yesterday renewed their appeals for anyone who was in the car park at Harpers leisure centre on Tuesday night between 6.30pm and 7pm to come forward. They would also like to speak to anyone who was in Har-penden town centre or near the leisure centre yesterday morning between 6.30am and 7.15am. They also issued doster addealing for any



Equine protest: the Grand National winner Mr Frisk and Tracey Bailey, his trainer's wife, help to deliver the petition in Hyde Park yesterday

Canoeist dies as gales return

BY LIN JENKINS "The ship was unmanned and

all her tanks empty, so there is no risk of pollution. We expect

Lt Robert Morris, 26, of the

Royal Naval base at Culdrose, Cornwall, died when his ca-

noe capsized on the swollen

river Ogwen, near Bethesda, Gwynedd. His companion

to reach him.

she will eventually break up."

AS GALES battered much of Britain yesterday an unmanned cargo ship ran aground in Devon after break-

ing its tow in heavy seas.

High winds and heavy rain brought flood alerts in many parts of Britain and motorists were warned of dangerous conditions as the two-week Christmas break started.

The 10,000-ton Demetrios hit rocks beneath Prawle Point near Salcombe and coastguards warned other shipping to stay clear. A BITICUA searched the area as her information on the two men. | coastguard spokesman said: the A48 at Langstone, Gwent.

Torrential rain caused flooding in Wales and Wilt-shire and the RAC warned of dangerous conditions in Kent and the Thames Valley. The National Rivers Authority issued red flood warnings on seven rivers in Wales. In Scotland there was drifting snow in Grampian region and flooding in the Highlands.

made an unsuccessful attempt. A 53-year-old motorist suffered head injuries and shock when his Reliant Robin was

Heavy rain will continue today below a line from the Wash to the Bristol Channel.

Residents starving in homes for the elderly

ELDERLY people in nursing and residential homes are suffering from starvation because their diet is inade-

quate, says an official report (writes Jeremy Laurance). The report, the first for 20 years into the nutrition of elderly people, by the govern-ment-appointed Committee on the Medical Aspects of Food Policy, suggests the problem may be more widespread than has been thought. forecast page 16 | disabled old people living in recovery.

institutions are "particularly common, and calls for research into the possibility of "institutional starvation". The normally cautious com-

mittee of medical experts says many elderly people admitted to hospital suffer from being inadequately fed and that this is not detected early enough. Professor John Grimley Evans of Oxford University, a member of the committee, said giving extra food through

Horses ride into battle over VAT

By LIN JENKINS

A CAMPAIGN to harmonise the widely differing value added tax rates for Europe's racing and bloodstock industries yesterday brought a Shetland pony, a Shire horse and a Grand National winner to London.

Britain levies VAT at 17.5 per cent on bloodstock sales, while France has a rate of 5.5 per cent and Ireland 2.7 per cent. The industry claims that the government's refusal to classify bloodstock as agriculture, thereby allowing tax exemption or a lower band of VAT, will put 30,000 jobs at risk and threaten £25 million in export revenue as stud farms and yearling sales are

Yesterday's equine protes was staged by the 1990 Grand National winner Mr Frisk, his constant Shetland companion Memo, and Wandle William, a Shire from Young's brewery. They joined Michael Clayton, edi-tor of Horse and Hound, the Marquess of Hartington, senior steward of the Jockey Club, and Michael Watt. o the auctioneer Tattersalls, in Hyde Park's Rotten Row to deliver a petition to Sir John

Cope, the paymaster-general. Mark Hedges, racing editor of Horse and Hound, said: "Although everyone in the racing industry is perceived as wealthy, that is not the case. It is those at the bottom who will suffer from the decline in the industry. Those who can afford to race in other coun-

tries will do so.
"Tattersalls, the biggest
auction sales in Europe, are already going to take the Houghton sale to Ireland because of this. It is the principal yearling sale in Europe and is a great loss to Britain. All we want is a level playing field so we can compete with others in Europe. It would be awful to destroy this industry."

The campaigners are seeking to persuade Norman
Lamont, the Chancellor, to
change VAT levels in the next
Budget. Two years of negotiations ,with the Treasury and
Customs and Excise have failed to reach a satisfactory

Racing, pages 28 and 29

Cross-Channel war of the stores

By NEIL BENNEIT

D retailers in Britain and Bye are preparing to do cam across the Channel iay Tesco announced it POLICting its long-awaited halt anto Europe with the Grandfullion acquisition of

Single Street St

questic putie eau. a family-owned site ess, has 90 stores includ-tres wo of the hypermarkets Calais loved by British Suntrippers who stock up on needs of cheap wine, pate and

HE SUNDAY TIMES **Unworthy** to govern

I now believe that Mr are unworthy to govern this great country of ours. Not only do they constitute the most incompetent set of rulers in living memory:



more seriously still, less than bonourable
less than less than honourable

Paul Johnson (above), a conviction Conservative voter last April, has changed his mind. He explains why in The Sunday Times

tomorrow

Tesco is not planning to use its own name on the stores. But Sir Ian MacLaurin, group chairman, is planning to in-troduce own-label goods into Catteau's stores, so French shoppers could soon find themselves tempted by les baked beans, le pork pie or even le chicken tikka chilled

There is the possibility of some cross-marketing but Tesco is playing down the prospects for ewn-label tinned snails in the East End. Carrefour is using a very different strategy in its assault

on the British market. Ed. a

Brie before driving back to the chain of medium-sized stores, will offer rock-bottom prices on basic goods sold in bulk. No tinned snails, rare claret or exotic unpasteurised cheese here, thank you. The fare is more likely to consist of vast boxes of washing powder or industrial quantities of low-fat

> The French company clear-ly believes the English favour their bank accounts more than their stomachs. For now the gastronomes of Kent will still have to cross the Channel and shop at Tesco under an assumed name to satisfy their greater culinary urges.

Tesco bridgehead, page 17

Murder charge is due as tortured girl dies

By PAUL WILKINSON

MURDER charges are to be brought against six people detained in connection with the alleged kidnap and torture of Suzanne Capper, the Manchester teenager who died in hospital yesterday. The six, including two

women and two youths aged 16 and 17, appeared before Manchester magistrates on Wednesday accused of the abduction and attempted murder of the girl. Police said vesterday that the charges would be altered to murder when the six appear on remand on Wednesday.

Miss Capper, 16, of Moston, Manchester, died early yesterday in the intensive care unit of the city's Withington Hospital. Her condi-tion had deteriorated since her admission on Monday suffering from hypothermia, 80 per cent burns and other injuries. She told a workman who discovered her naked by the roadside in Stockport that she had been held for a week and tortured. Eventually, she had been dumped and doused with petrol which was set

alight, she said. Soon after she was admitted to hospital, her condition dedired, she lost conciousness and was put on a life-support machine. Detectives who had waited outside her room were



Suzanne Capper as a bridesmaid

unable to ask her for details of what had happened to her.

Miss Capper's mother, Elizabeth, and other relatives were at her bedside when she died at 1.05am. Her father, John, 53, was at home and had to be sedated after news of his daughter's death was broken to him. "It was extremely distressing for all concerned," a hospital spokesman said.

Brian Langley, a neighbour, said: "John was devastated by what happened to Suzanne. He'il never get over it. I feel like I have lost a daughter. I've known the family for 10 years, we were very close. When she was a little girl, I used to bounce her on my knee. The whole community is devastated. We can't understand how she got into this situation."

Dunkirk veteran: defeats club ban

By JOHN YOUNG

A DUNKIRK veteran who was expelled from his local old comrades' club was awarded £4,500 in damages in the High Court

The court ordered that he be reinstated, but his success was clouded by the prospect that the club, in Salisbury, Wiltshire, may have to close because of a bill for costs of up to £30,000.

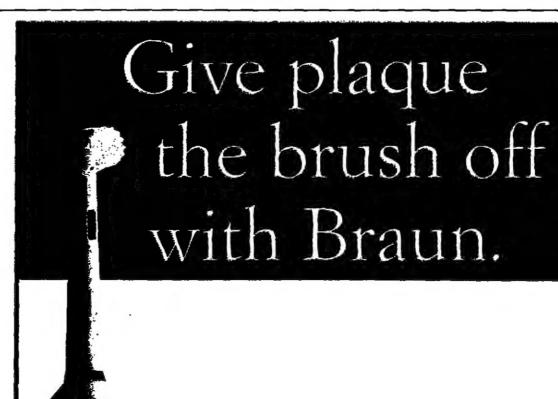
Harold Hewitt, 75, a former warrant officer and holder of the military medal, was expelled six years ago after he bugged a finance committee meeting with a tape recorder hidden in his clothes. He was accused of employing trying to expose an alleged fruit machine fraud.

By a 10-2 majority verdict of the jury, the court declared the expulsion null and void, and granted an injunction restraining anyone from preventing Mr Hewitt entering the club, a branch of the Dunkirk Veterans' Association. The action for reinstate-

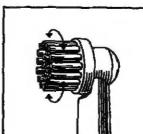
ment and damages had been brought against Steve Curtis, the club chairman, and Louis Carrier, the secretary. Both were said afterwards by their solicitor, Alan Willis, to be too upset to talk.

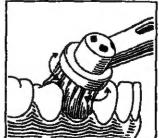
"They are very disap-pointed as they felt they were acting in the best interests of the membership," Mr Willis said. "The past six years have been a nightmare. The future of the club and its premises must be in doubt if Mr Hewitt pursues his claim for costs."

Mr Hewitt, a garage owner, of Devizes, Wiltshire, said he had been vindicated and would carefully consider how the award for costs would affect the club. "From the bottom of my heart. I hope



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THERE AREA LOT HOT, SWEATY JOINTS NEW HAMPSHIR EA ISN'T ONE OF THEM

There are some very popular joints in the state of New Hampshire.

Not as many as in New York maybe. Or down in the South, where it gets hotter and sweatier than hades. But that's not surprising.

See, living in a state like New Hampshire. with all those mountains, forests, rivers and lakes on your doorstep, folk have plenty to keep themselves busy.

Back-packing, rafting, climbing, trekking, cycling, skiing. Why, people in this part of America practically live in the outdoors.

Which could explain why? it's also home to Timberland, the small but legendary boot, shoe and clothing manufacturer.

A company that has people who spend all their waking hours thinking about one joint and one joint only.

No, we don't mean the one on the corner opposite the workshop. We are, of course, talking about the ankle.

Or to give it its technical description: the syndesmosis or fibrous joint comprising the tibia, fibula and talus.

Obviously, Timberland's obsessive interest in this part of your anatomy is utterly selfish.

We do, after all, make a good chunk of our living selling footwear. If we don't know what gives or rather what doesn't give, anklewise, our customers could well decide to give us the proverbial boot.

Naturally, we do everything in our power to ensure that while your feet are in our boots they get to enjoy first class hospitality.

Take the Tan Buck, for example, sitting down there in the corner.

To the untutored eye it resembles a good number of boots you see around these days.

But underneath, it's practically a scientific laboratory with a sole attached.

To start with, that innocent looking leather is impregnated with silicone and injected with natural oils and hot waxes. It's one of the reasons we can guarantee the boot 100% waterproof.

Keeping your joints dry is our way ofmaking them feel right at home.

But that doesn't mean that keeping them warm doesn't get our undivided attention. As far as we're concerned this job can't be done

incessantly pessimistic tome, 'Sports Injuries' by Doctors Lars Peterson and Per Renström, the ankle is the joint which most often suffers fractures. Don't say we didn't warn you.)

For our part, we've inserted a steel shank along the length of the Tan Buck boot to help keep it rigid, on the basis that if your boot can't twist then neither can your ankle. The sole is made of a special dual density

polyurethane which, apart from being lightweight and hard wearing, has shock absorbing qualities known only to people who've studied our price tags and still bought our boots.

doctors we mentioned, the life of an ankle isn't all bad.

> For instance, the inside of the Tan Buck is lined with soft glove leather. And the collar is actually covered in the stuff.

contoured to fit snugly round the top of the ankle to keep out wind, rain and snow. All in all, we reckon Timberland shows

the ankle a pretty good time while it's in our hands. Come to that, our range of Weathergear clothing can probably protect and cosset every other joint in your body too.

Unless, of course, you happen on one of those hot, sweaty places in New Hampshire where people practise involuntary falling over. And then it will take



Despite the predictions made by those two

What's more, it's

Of course there's one thing worse than a hot ankle and that's one that is twisted, or, heaven forbid, broken. (According to that

in the tongue, shaft and quarter. And Ensolite,

for example in our high performance Iditarod

boot. Then, to stop your feet 'cooking' we utilise

billion pores per square inch, each one 20,000 times smaller than a rain drop but 700 times

larger than a molecule of perspiration, thus

foot, will never suffer from overheating. Or get

Sometimes we use even heavier insulation,

Gore-Tex is a miracle fabric which has 9

As a result, your ankle, indeed your whole

for extra insulation around the toes.

another of Man's ingenious inventions.

allowing your foot to breathe.

clammy from trapped perspiration.

found in a

boots currently

Which is why

using the

thick cotton

padding that's

lot of the other

on the market.

we use B-400 Thinsulate

For further information about Timberland Boots, Shoes and Clothing, call 081: 890 6116. "GORE-TEX is a registered trademark of W. L. Gure & Associates, Inc.

Marketin pioneer quits LPC

East Anglia grows fastest while North West declines

By KATE ALDERSON

EAST Anglia was the fastest growing region of Britain in the 1980s, with a 7.3 per cent population rise over the decade, according to the results of the 1991 Census of Britain, were published

Demographers say the in-flux is unlikely to continue apace. The past two years have seen unemployment there al-most double, from 4.4 per cent

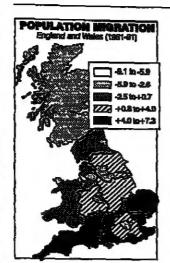
The 1991 census, a snap-shot of the population of Britain on the night of April 21, 1991, shows that the North West of England was the greatest regional loser in internal migration over the 1980s, losing 4.3 per cent of its population to more prosperous regions.

The influx of migrants into

East Anglia can be partially explained by its unprecedent-ed economic growth during the late eighties, when cheap property and easy access to London and the South East attracted businesses and light industry to the region. The South West also gained from the economic boom. Its population rose by 5.5 per cent, the second largest increase in

According to Tony Fielding.

The 1991 census reveals that people migrated in search of employment during the eighties. Recession may end their quest



a lecturer in geography at the University of Sussex and author of Migration and the Metropolis, the South East region has benefited during the eighties from an influx of young adults from England and Wales.

"In sharp contrast with this, the South East is a net loser of people in their forties to most of southern Britain and espe-

22 per cent, and lowest in the South East. "Internal migration always decreases during a depression and you have to remember that half of the people who are migrating from region to region are cially to East Anglia, the South West and rural Wales. Only in the industrial Midlands and simply transferring their job within a company. Others will migrate because of numerous reasons including unemploy-North does one find net flows towards the South East in this ment or family breakdown," age group, and then the rates

Mr Fielding said. Wales had the highest proportion of households with a member stating they had a long-term illness, 32 per cent, compared to the national average of 24 per cent. The South East had the lowest proportion, at 21 per cent.

Statistics on households who have the use of a car demonstrate large discrepan-cies in disposable income. While a third of all households do not have a car, a decrease of more than 6 percentage points since 1981, 23 per cent of households had two or more cars available, an increase of 8 per centage points. Just over 18 per cent of households have no central heating, with the highest number in Yorkshire and Humberside, with 24.5

per cent. The success of the Thatcher vernmnent's push towards home ownership is seen in the statistics. Those families owning their own homes jumped about a fifth, from 55.8 to 66.4 per cent of households, while those in rented accommodation decreased a comparable amount - from 44.1 per cent to 33.6 per cent.

Children under 16 accounted for 20.1 per cent of the population of Britain, down from 22.3 per cent a decade before, with the proportion highest in the North West (21 per cent) and lowest in the South East (18.9 per cent). People of pensionable age made up 18.7 per cent of the population, up from 17.9 in

The ethnic population in Britain was 5.5 per cent, with Indians forming the largest ethnic group at 1.5 per cent. tistics for 1981.

1991 Census County Monitor: Great Britain, Office of Population Censuses & Surveys, £2.00. Migration and the Metropo-

lis: Patterns and Processes of Inter-Regional Migration to land, A J Fielding

Channel 5 bid fails on

audience and income

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BROADCASTERS were confounded yesterday by the Independent Television Commission's decision not to award the Channel 5 licence to the sole bidder, a consortium led by Thames Television.

The commission said last April that it could not guarantee that a fifth terrestrial channel would be launched because of problems in re-tuning three million video recorders that would have suffered interference from Channel 5, but television executives had expected the ITC to give Thames the chance to make a go of it.
The ITC approved

Thames's proposals for retuning videos and its programme plans, but quest-ioned the audience share and revenue projections con-tained in its business plan. It said it was not satisfied "with the level of investor commitment", despite backing from Time Warner Inc. which has a \$14 billion market

After twice extending the financing deadline at Thames's request, Sir George Russell, the ITC chairman, said he felt unable to do so again, despite a 12-week stipulated period for 100 per cent funding to be secured after the award of the licence.

Thames and its parent company. Thorn EMI, had taken a 35 per cent stake and Time Warner Entertainment had received board approval for a 10 per cent investment. Time Warner Inc had written to the ITC, pledging to take a further 25 per cent after the award of the licence. Thames had secured letters from Associated Newspapers. American media companies. promising to take up the remaining 30 per cent shareholding if the licence was awarded.

All the potential investors had told the ITC that Thames's business plan was



Broadcasters accuse licence chiefs of easy way out

sion in advertising and a £150 million bill to retune video recorders. The ITC had also received a letter from S. G. Warburg, the City merchant bank, guaranteeing Yesterday, many broad-

casters privately criticised the ITC — which has a statutory responsibility under the 1990 Broadcasting Act to do everything in its power to launch Channel 5— for not awarding the licence provisionally. "It betrays

interest in awarding it at all; that it regards Channel 5 as a pain in the neck which would give ITV and Channel 4 a problem. But that's what it was set up to do; the government wanted to increase viewer choice," one broadcaster said.

Last week Michael Green's Cariton Communications. parent of Thames's ITV successor, had threatened to sue the ITC if it awarded the Channel 5 licence. Carlton feared that Channel 5, a

start in London next autumn before expanding to Man-chester in 1994, would jeopardise its advertising revenue. LWT was also considering legal action against

Sir George denied that Carlton's threat had any bearing on his decision. "We took no regard of what it would do to anyone eise." The ITC now faces legal action from Thames.

Franchise refused, page 1

Britons long for greener grass

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

LASHED by rain, recession and redundancy, a growing number of Britons are anxious to escape the gloom. People believe the quality of life is deteriorating so fast that one in four would prefer to live abroad, according to a survey London, who works in the published yesterday.

If the queue of people waiting to be interviewed by migration officers at the Australian High Commission in London is anything to go by, the British pioneering spirit is as strong as ever.

Andy Goodwin, 26, from Alton, Hampshire, who was made redundant 15 months ago, said: "I decided to travel the world and spent ten months in Sydney working as a barman. It's a beautiful country and I can't wait to get people endure in Britain, the say they are worse off unemployment.

Marketing

pioneer

quits LPO

BY ALISON ROBERTS

ARTS REPORTER

based orchestras.

weather is excellent, the wages

are good, the standard of living as high but the cost much cheaper. lan Baker, 30, from south

public trust office of the Lord Chancellor's department, will emigrate in May. "I don't want to live in London for the rest of my life. Britons have a right to feel gloomy in the circumstances. The economy is not encouraging anyone at the moment and the climate is horrendous. The environment is so much better in Australia.

and the standard of living."
The survey of 3,400 Europeans, including 1,000 Britons, by Global Market Research showed that 46 per cent of Britons believe the economy will worsen in the

now than 12 months ago. Only 9 per cent believe the quality of life in Britain is one of the best, while 50 per cent regard it as average or worse than most. Only 72 per cent of those surveyed would like to remain in Britain.

of movement are very slow."

Gains to the South East are

made largely at the expense of midland and northern indus-

trial areas and metropolitan

cities. Tyne and Wear metro-

politan county lost 5.4 per cent

London witnessed the greatest decline, down by 6.6 per cent since 1981. Mr Fielding's

research confirms the ever-

changing profile of the population of London. While a

quarter of a million people

move to London every year, the same number also leave

People in their sixties over-

whelmingly migrate away from the South East, said Mr

Fielding, and their preferred

destinations are East Anglia,

Lincolnshire and the South

West. This explains why the

proportion of people of pen-

sionable age was highest in the South West of England,

the capital.

f its population. But inner

However, Britons may not be the gloomiest people in Europe. In Germany, 70 per cent think their economy will worsen and 40 per cent of Italians would prefer to live in another country. For the 25 per cent of

Britons who want to get away. Australia may no longer be the lucky country. Although 44,000 emigrated to Australia in 1988, only 80,000 people from all countries will be allowed in during the year to July 1993. The reasons:

Redundant officers braced for new battle in jobs market

BY IAN MURRAY

THE 623 colonels, majors and captains who will be made compulsorily redun-JOHN Willan, the managing director of the London Phildant from the army next year face gloomy prospects in the labour market. Gone are the harmonic Orchestra, andays when former officers could walk into a top job. according to Philip Creasy, general-secretary of the Royal nounced his resignation yesterday, ending an era of within London-

government announced that there would have to be com-

pulsory redundancies, it took

over a large area at Tidworth

camp, Wiltshire, where it will

establish a retraining centre

British Legion. Mr Willan brought a com-"We are now into a period mercial mind and marketing when they will be competing with a lot of highly trained instincts to the orchestra, which won him few friends in traditional musical circles. His civilians who have been made redundant," he said. "Emresignation comes at a time of great insecurity London orployers have misconceptions chestras other than the LPO. about the army these days and think they are a bunch of Rambos. They fail to under-stand that an officer has The Arts Council awarded the LPO a large grant increase this week, fuelling speculation potential, that he is amenable about the formation of two to training, fit, energetic and national super-orchestras. During his eight-year tenused to working extremely

ure, Mr Willan secured the long hours." The British Legion is so concerned about the problem LPO's residency at the Royal Festival Hall and substantialthat it is setting up a retrainly increased annual turnover. ing centre. Yesterday, the day after the Judy Grahame, former

marketing director at the LPO, said that differences between Mr Willan and Nicholas Snowman, artistic director at the South Bank Centre, had not contributed to his



soldiers as Rambos

for officers, other ranks and

their wives.

Much of the money needed. to run the centre will come from the annual poppy appeal. "Our job is not just about looking after old soldiers but to help people who need help. These days they need help in finding work."

Sir John Trelawny of Goddard Kay Rogers and Associates, the executive recruitment company, said it was rare today for a company to consider an executive with-

ledge. "There is a lot of talent among officers but it is diffi-cult for us to include them on a short list. These prejudices are understandable. A naval flag officer told me it would be as likely for him to get a senior executive's job as it would be for a senior executive to be given command of a

The defence ministry is so concerned about the problens of ex-servicemen finding jobs that it has employed a public relations consultancy to try to change the popular image of the trained fighting

"Employers should realise that former officers are excellent at personnel management, organisation and the logistics of handling hundreds of men and running a tight financial budget," a defence ministry spokesman

The Tri-Service Resettle-Organisation was ment formed this year to co-ordinate training and assistance for ex-servicemen. In October the Service Employment Network was launched to computer-match employers and former army personnel.

Lunn Poly RES FROM HEATHROW OR GATWICK ON SELECTED QUALITY ARLINES

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Lunn Poly The same flight for less

Artist 'staged suicide attempt on Tate steps'

By A STAFF REPORTER

refused bail yesterday after a magistrate was told he tried to kill himself by driving up the steps of the Tate Gallery in London last Wednesday and attempting to set his sports car alight in a protest against a snub from the Arts Council. Kenneth Whitehead, 24, a figure painter from Muswell Hill, north London, was arrested after a maintenance worker struggled with the artist to stop him setting fire to

his Triumph Spittire. He had doused the car in petrol. Horseferry Road magistrates' court was told. Whitehead had attempted suicide to draw attention to a

lack of funding from the Arts

Council, said Ahm Milford,

AN "ARTISTIC genius" was for the prosecution. "He is a risk to himself and the public. and he might commit another grandiose gesture to bring attention to himself and his

Mr Milford said: "Psychiatric reports cast doubts on whether he intended to kill himself, but he did come close and was oblivious to the danger to other people." Rene Wong, for the defence, said: This is a talented artist who found himself pinched and punched, pushed and pulled by a demon urge to protest because of lack of support and funds from establishments such as the Arts Council."

Whitehead is charged with attempted arson on his Spit-



Black Wednesday billionaire gives £31m for Bosnians

By JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

GEORGE Soros, the billionaire financier dubbed "the man who broke the pound on Black Wednesday", gave \$50 million (£31.6 million) to help victims of the war in the former Yugoslavia yesterday. described as the biggest private donation to a humanitar-

The Hungarian-born financier, who said he had made almost \$1 billion speculating against sterling last September, said his impulse to give was the same as anyone donating £5 to Oxfam. "I am privileged in having greater financial means at my disposal than most people," he said. "I don't expect other people to make donations of this size."

The donation will be ad-ministered by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). An ini-tial allocation of \$1 million will be made to four charities: Oxfam, the International Save the Children Fund Alliance, the French group Médécins Sans Frontières and the International Rescue

Mr Soros. 62, who is based in New York, said that he was making the donation to voluntary organisations because he felt that western governments had failed to help the people of

"I think I feel what everyone in the civilised world feels. What sets me apart is that I have more money. We all know that what is going on in Bosnia today is genocide. I feel it particularly strongly because, as a Hungarian Jew. I was myself a potential victim of the Holocaust. My heart goes out to the people who are being raped, pillaged and

London waiter who turned philanthropist

LAST September George Soros, the man whose invest-ment fund made \$1 billion (£633 million) out of the weakness of the pound, appeared to be a cold-blooded financier (Julia Llewellyn Smith writes). Yesterday, he became a paragon of

philanthropy. Mr Soros gambled his fortune on selling off sterling in anticipation of the collapse of the European exchangerate mechanism. The Bank of England was forced to spend £12 billion to prop up the pound before the government finally pulled out of the ERM.

Apart from his \$50 million donation yesterday, the financier, who was estimated to be worth \$1 billion before Black Wednesday, has also set up several philanthropic institutions to help to restore democracy to eastern Europe.

A Hungarian Jew, Mr Soros emigrated to Britain after the war and worked as a waiter to finance his studies at the London School of Economics. He became a merchant banker in the City and moved to the US as a Wall Street broker, although

London. In 1969 he set up the Quantum Fund, based in the Dutch Antilles, of which he owns a third. Investors have seen an average annual return of 33 per cent.

A year ago the public had a glimpse of his private life-style, when Nick Davison, Mr Soros's former butler, took him to an industrial tribunal claiming wrongful dismissal after a row over whether Mrs Davison's meals were "good plain cooking" or burnt. The Davisons won the claim, pending an appeal. The Sun paid them £15,000 for their story, in which they claimed the Soros family thought nothing of using a £500 bottle of wine to make goulash.

The Soros Foundation was created in 1984 with offices in 18 central and eastern European countries. In 1990 he founded the Central European University, with cam-puses in Budapest and Prague. Last week he gave \$100 million for science in the former Soviet Union. He has also been a major bene-factor of Oxford University, and was admitted to Lord Jenkins's Chancellor's Court murdered just because they are Bosnian Muslims. The civilised world must protect them if we are to remain civilised. If we do not, we shall be ruled by terrorism and fundamentalism of all kinds."

Mr Soros said he had made just under \$1 billion by speculating against the pound on Black Wednesday in Sep-tember, when sterling was forced out of the European exchange-rate mechanism. "It has contributed to my personal fortune and therefore has increased my ability to do philanthropic work," he said.

He added that he made his money in the West and redis-tributed it in the East. "The dollar goes much further there. It's incredible what you can do with very little money in places like the former Soviet

Sylvana Foa, a spokesman for the UN high commission-er for refugees, said the donation was the largest the UN had received from an individual and would add a "new dimension" to its aid operations in Yugoslavia. "Now we can go a step further to do something more than just ensure survival," she said. A programme to help those traumatised by torture would be set up, along with a team of investigators to look into continuing reports of atrocities.

David Bryer, the director of Oxfam, said that he was delighted with the donation, the largest the charity has ever received. "World leaders need to respond to the crisis in Bosnia in the same way that the public and Mr Soros have responded," he said.

Mr Soros called for military intervention from Nato to stop the slaughter and to enable the voluntary organisations to bring aid effectively. "I am sure that Nato can do the job without a great deal of bloodshed because the regular army of Yugoslavia will think twice before it decides to wage war on Nato. This leaves the irregulars and I do not think they will be quite so heroic when they are confronted with

superior firepower." He also called on govern-ments to recognise Macedonia to prevent potential conflict between local Macedonians and Albanians flar-



Le Carré tactics used by campus fraudsters

By NICHOLAS WATT

BOGUS students used tactics similar to those in John Le Carré novels to claim grants worth millions of pounds for courses they never attended, it has been alleged.

Identities and addresses were made up and false references written as thousands of applications for grants were made to education authorities throughout London. Police are investigating and the education department is warning local authorities.

George Benham, executive director of education at Brent Council, which paid out up to 200 cheques, said Le Carrélike tactics were employed:
"We are talking about a huge organised crime. The socalled students applied for grants under false names after winning a place at a college under the same name. This would ensure that when we contacted the college they would be on the list of students. Most of the 'students' used foreign names. which meant they had to give less details of their academic

Some of the cheques were for as much as £1,500 a term because the "students" claimed extra benefits. Breat detected some of the bogus applications when the 'students' collected their cheques at the colleges. Mr Benham said: "Some colleges phoned us up and asked why grants had been sent for pupils who did not turn up for their

Mr Benham said that 80 cases of fraud were being investigated after information from police. But as many as 200 applications may have been made and Brent is spending £20,000 on a team of outside consultants to in-

side since it was unveiled in

February 1990. The auction-

eers had hoped to earn hefty

commissions from the biggest

hoard of Roman silver to

emerge on the market for decades. Instead there was an

international outcry, with the

silver's origin being ques-

fifth centuries, the 14 Roman

ornamental dishes and ewers

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NEWSINESE Longleat eviction

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delayed LORD Christopher Thynne has been given a seasonal reprieve by his brother, the Marquess of Bath, who has decided not to evict him from

his cottage on the Longlear estate before Christmas. Lord Bath, 59. dismissed his brother, 57, as controller of the Longleat wildlife park after the death of their father earlier this year. He was due to have left the estate by Christmas eve, but has now been given until the new year.

Lord Christopher said: "I will be hanging on and I'll be here over Christmas." Negotiations over his future on the estate are continuing.

Mother hid baby in well

A teenager made pregnant by her father gave birth on a lavatory, wrapped the baby in rub-bish bags and hid it in a well, an inquest in Stoke-on-Trent was told. She kept the birth secret for more than three years before telling police.

John Wain, North Staffordshire coroner, recorded an open verdict, saying that it was impossible to determine how the child died. The woman's father was jailed earlier this year on an incest charge relating to a second child.

Disease clue

American scientists have discovered that beagles can suffer from Alzheimer's disease and may now use the dogs for medical research. Studies of the brains of 29 beagles who died of old age showed that two thirds had signs of an Alzheimer-like disease, research in NeuroReport says.

Avenger fined

Lady Graham-Moon, of Lambourn Woodlands, Berkshire, who earlier this year cut sleeves off her faithless husband's suits and gave away his vintage wine, was fined £60 by Newbury magistrates after admitting speeding.

Intruder hit

An intruder who fled a house near Rochdale, Greater Manchester, when the occupier returned was hit by a car as he ran off. He has neck, arm and shoulder injuries.

Castle wins

The entertainer Roy Castle has been voted Person of the Year by BBC Radio 1 listeners for his public struggle with cancer. The racing driver Nigel Mansell was second.

Dog kills girl

Holly-Marie McGarry, 23 months, of Grimsby, Hum-berside, died when her family's Weimaraner dog climbed on her bed and suffocated her.

Sotheby's plea over £40m silver refused

By SARAH JANE CHRCKLAND ART MARKET CORRESPONDENT

ATTEMPTS by Sotheby's to extricate itself from an American legal dispute over a hoard of Roman silver worth £40

million have failed. Since last July, Judge Carol Huff of the New York Suering an application by the auctioneer for a discharge from the civil action surrounding the Sevso Silver. Now she has denied Sotheby's request.

In her judgment, Judge Huff referred to allegations made by Lebanon and Croatia, which both claim ownership of the silver. These

Sotheby's participation in the disclosure of documents "has been less than forthright". The claimant countries also argued that "while Sotheby's

New York ... disclaims any ownership interest ... evidence indicates that former principals of Sotheby's acquired ownership interests ... es early as 1980 and tha these individuals were instrumental in securing the Lebanese export licenses for the reasure, which were allegedly

forged". The judge said: "The importance of maintaining Sotheby's as a party ... is apparent in view of the sheer olume of relevant evidence in

The so-called Sevso treasure has been a thorn in Sotheby's

vessels fit to serve your offspring worthily". Scotland Yard's art and antique squad is investigating

the dealers and investors who handled the silver in the

Rain forest newcomer' to Amazon

BY NORMAN HAMMOND ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE Amazon rain forest may be a lot younger than previously thought. New archaeologi-cal research suggests that large areas of "virgin" forest are only a few centuries old. Before that the region was

heavily populated by farmers.

According to Anna Roosevelt of the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, the Amazon has potential for long-term economic exploitation and environmentalists' desire for the rain forest to go untouched is as mistaken as the deforestation for cattle ranching is acknowledged to have been.

Dr Rooseveit's excavations at Caverna da Pedra Pintada, near the city of Santarem in Brazil, found evidence of occupation 11,000 years ago. Rock paintings and finely-worked stone tools indicate "2 far from primitive culture", she says in the American magazine The Sciences.

By the time of Christ, Amazonian farmers were cultivat-ing maize and 1,000 years ago big farming settlements exist-ed in areas today covered by forest and inhabited only by small groups of Indians. "The societies did not succumb to ecological damage, but came to an end only with the arrival of Europeans," Dr Roosevelt

This does not justify cutting down the forests as "there is a tremendous difference in scale between the kind of deforestation that took place in prehis-tory and the kind carried out today". But, she says, the land could be used more extensively

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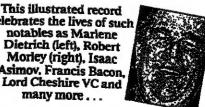
The good, the bad and the fascinating

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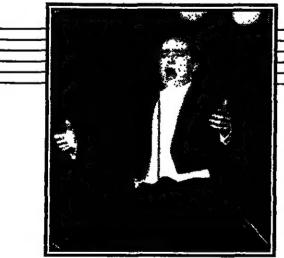
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Smith aims to regain Labour initiative on economic policy

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

JOHN Smith has targeted the economy, Europe and the constitution as his priorities for next year as the Labour party's new policy-making machinery moves into opera-tion with the aim of having a programme ready by 1995. A new party body, known as

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the joint policy committee and chaired by the Labour leader, has approved the establishment of two committees on Europe and the constitution, which will report to next year's party conference. A fresh appraisal of economic policy, being conducted by Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, will go to the 16-member committee, regarded as one of the most powerful within the

The moves are intended to respond to internal criticism of a void in Labour's economic platform since the general election. Much of it has been caused by the government's decision to espouse many of Labour's policies, particularly in the recent Autumn Statement.

Mr Brown, who has set himself the task of leading a national debate about the economic agenda, is drawing up plans for national and international intervention to boost the economy as he tries to win the battle of ideas with the Conservatives. His work will go to the committee, which is charged, among other things, with looking at Britain's economic prospects review effectively reached its

and agreeing priorities for policies on taxation and public spending. The committee, whose members include Harriet Harman, shadow chief Treasury secretary, is seen as an important political device to control Labour's spending commitments and blunt Tory attempts to saddle Labour

with a high-spending tag.

The committees on the constitution, to be chaired by Tony Blair, the shadow home secretary, and on Europe, chaired by John Cunning-ham, the shadow foreign secretary, will be the first-fruits of the party's "rolling pro-gramme" of policy-making. They were established by the joint committee at its first meeting when it set the policy work programme for the com-

IRA fired three mortars at a police station at Markethill, co. Armagh. Nobody was

hurt. "My message to the IRA is that they will not achieve

political change by the use of terrorism. The whole of the United Kingdom, all the par-ties and the majority of its people are united in resisting

terrorism," he said.

ing year.

As Mr Smith explained when he launched the social justice commission on Thursday, Labour intends to target two or three areas of policy each year rather than coming forward with global policy statements that face amend ment and overhaul. The committee will decide each year which policies are to be covered and will set up commissions. Their reports will go before the new 100-member policy forum and then the annual conference.

Mr Smith is trying to avoid a repeat of Labour's experience in the last parliament, when Neil Kinnock's policy



Opt-out schools to keep extra cash

By John O'Leary, Education correspondent

SCHOOLS which opt out of local authority control will continue to be funded more generously than their local authority counterparts, under proposals issued for consultation yesterday by John Parten, the education secretary.

A new funding formula will be based on the government's assessment of local education spending. However, grant-maintained (GM) schools will receive more money in areas where local authorities exceed the official norm for their own

Critics of opting out have claimed that a formula based on standard spending assessments (SSAs) would leave schools in high-spending areas better off under local authority control. Yesterday's proposals would maintain the incentive to opt out by guaran-

teeing them a premium.

Baroness Blatch, the education minister, said: "There is clear evidence that individual education authority (LEA) budgets and education SSAs are converging. But such a link to local authority budgets will ensure that funding for GM schools, and schools becoming GM in future, will continue, where necessary, to

reflect the level and movement in LEA budgets as well as their additional responsibilities."

The new arrangements will be piloted in some areas in 1994-5, where a significant proportion of schools have opted out. They will be introduced authority by authority later. Local authorities will retain responsibility for pupils with special educational needs at grant-maintained schools, and for school transport. Other items will be negotiated

locally. The proposals are intended to form the basis of a longterm funding regime for opt-out schools. Lady Blatch said: This paper is good news for all schools that are already GM or are considering GM status. The central principle of our approach to GM funding is stated loud and clear all GM schools will continue to receive additional funds which recognise their extra responsibilities compared with LEA

schools in their area."

Local Schools Information. the pressure group opposed to opting out, said that the formula would not guarantee grant-maintained schools higher funding in the long

more optimistic note

next year's prospects.

The Chancellor of the Ex-

Because of a much im-proved performance by in-visible exports, the deficit stood at £2,180 million, some £908 million better than the

jobs from two of its regional aircraft factories because of the recession, and the telecommunications firm GPT said it

.Mr Lamont, describing the zur in Sedicilidet i setback, nevertheless made plain there could be no prospect of an early return. Britain could not contemplate going back in "until the recession has been put firmly behind us", he said.

He wished that Europe would get over its "rather adolescent obsession" with

Japan.

Mr Lamont dismissed suggestions that the ERM will collapse. Obviously the ERM "is not bust up", he said. He added that the French franc deserved greater market sup-port on the grounds that the French economy performed better than the German economy.

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Lamont forecasts a buoyant Britain in coming year

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NORMAN Lamont yesterday predicted that Britain would be one of the more "buoyant economies" as senior ministers continued to sound a

chequer told foreign financial journalists: "There are some promising signs. We have an excellent base of low inflation. a competitive pound and the lowest interest rates in

His remarks came amid a flurry of economic statistics suggesting that recovery may prove chisive. The Bank of England reported a collapse in lending to consumers and companies last month - a message that was reinforced by the Building Societies Association, which released figures showing weak demand for

mongages.

This was balanced by a survey from manufacturer members of the Confederation. of British Industry reporting the first improvement in orders for seven months and a bigger-than-expected im-provement in the balance of

previous quarter.

Meanwhile, British Aerospace said it would lose 600

was closing its plant in Kirk-

caldy, Fife, with the loss of 250

pound's departure from the European exchange-rate

The Chancellor's assessment followed other cautiously upheat remarks made by the prime minister and his cabinet colleagues in recent days. He said that Britain, helped by "nascent" recovery in the United States, "may be one of the more buoyant economies next year".

He suggested that next year Britain might perform better economically than Germany. Mr Lamont, however, delivered a stinging rebuke to the European Community for its refusal to grant free access to Japanese cars made in Britain when the single market starts next month.

Shares rise, page 17

Welsh tongue pledge fails to placate

WELSH yesterday came close to becoming an official language in Wales when new laws to give "yr hen iaith" the old tongue — equal status with English were announced. Sir Wyn Roberts, the Welsh minister, said it was an historic day for the principality but the Welsh Language Society condemned the measure as feeble and promised to continue its campaign of civil disobedience.

The government will establish a 15-member Welsh Language Board with powers to secure the use of Welsh in the public sector. It will also give grants to encourage use of the language. But privatised industries such as water and electricity will not be affected because the government does not want to put them at a disadvantage with rival firms in the rest of the UK.

Dafydd Lewis of the Welsh Language Society said: "This

bill does not go far enough. Our campaign of occupying government buildings and daubing their walls with slogans will continue."
Dafydd Wigley, MP for

Caernarion and president of Plaid Cymru, also said the Welsh language bill was inadequate. "It is light years behind public opinion in Wales. Unless it can be radi cally strengthened in Parliament, it will stand as a testimony to a missed opportunity to give the Welsh lan-guage the status it deserves."

□ Glenys Kinnock, wife of the former Labour leader, faces competition from five other women and 33 men to be Labour candidate for the European parliamentary seat for South East Wales. A short list of up to ten names for the seat, which has a Labour majority of 108,488, will be drawn up and the winner chosen by a postal ballot.

Grand strategy eludes Nato in its hunt for role in Yugoslavia

lines, the Bosnian issue has served only to widen the

cracks. Potentially, the most

damaging is that emerging

between the Americans and

the British The British gov-

ernment is being understand-

soldiers are distributing food

Croat-Muslim areas.



Morillon: demands

THE divisions within the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation over what military action to take against the Serbs has brought into the public domain disagreements over the broader issue of the allignests future after the and alliance's future after the end of the Cold war.

Peacekeeping and, potentially, peacemaking outside the traditional alliance borders are supposed to be the new key roles for Nato. How-ever, the fighting in Croatia and then in Bosnia-Herzegovina caught the alliance off balance. Now, instead of unity and concensus - distinguishing features of the Nato family for most of the Cold war period - there are so many different views over the way

WESTERN ALLIANCE

Peacekeeping and peacemaking are supposed to be the allies' new tasks. Croatia and Bosnia caught them off balance. Michael Evans writes

the forces in central Europe

has gone wrong. Three alliance members -Norway, Belgium and The Netherlands — are planning to cut their armies by such a substantial number that there will not be enough soldiers around to form all the proposed "main defence forces" which, along with multinational rapid reaction units, are to replace the layered Cold war corps in central Europe. Re-

ably protective towards the John Major and his senior cabinet colleagues do not want The clashes between the French and Americans over to destroy the precarious pospeacekeeping and who should ition of the batallion battle group in Vitez, central Bosnia, by advocating military action against the Serbs to enforce ing almost a daily occurrence at Nato headquarters. So the "no-fly" zone, while the much so that some officials are

beginning to wonder whether

former Warsaw Pact countries

talks at Camp David, to pull

back from an immediate

threat to shoot down any

Serbian aircraft defying the

ban. He will argue that, as in

southern Iraq, the passing of a resolution by the UN Security

Council, authorising enforce-

ment of the air exclusion zone.

could be enough to persuade the Bosnian Serbs to ground

all flights over the former Yugoslav republic.

Thursday night, Mr Major flew to Washington yesterday believing that he has an ally in his search for a "measured" enforcement of the zone. Like

Britain, Canada has about

After talks with Brian Mulroney, his Canadian counterpart, in Ottawa on

which are knocking on Nato's One senior British official door might have second thoughts about their applicasaid pointedly this week that there was a division between tions for membership. those with troops on the ground and those "who were With these strategic quesjust speciators" - an implied

dig at the Americans who have avoided sending any soldiers to Bosnia apart from 15 officers to the UN headquar-

ters in Kiseljak. Unfortunately for Britain, France, which has the largest number of troops in Bosnia. has not supported Mr Major. President Mitterrand wants the "no-fly" zone enforced and has not highlighted the potential risks that might follow for French humanitarian soldiers who are based in Bihac on the Serbian side in northern Bosnia. The decision by France to take a tough line is, one suspects, not totally discon-nected to the wider issue of which organisation is to play the primary role in peace enforcement. France is deter-

mined it should not be Nato.

So the French, encouraged

for action. They also have their man in charge on the ground. Major General Philippe Morillon, commander of the 7,000 United Nations troops in Bosnia. After months of painful diplomatic peacemaking between the leaders of the warring factions, General Morillon is now also of the view that action, not words, is required. Behind the British position are the Spanish and Canadians who, along with the British and French, are the only countries to have sent an infantry batallion to Bosnia. Canada has about 1,100 soldiers in northern Bosnia, kick-

in the forefront of those calling

ing their heels outside Banja Luka, and Spain has 700 operating from Mostar and

With the outgoing adminis-tration in Washington and President Mitterrand in the same camp for once there seems little chance that the British argument for caution will survive much longer.

Everyone in Nato knows

that the steps taken over the next few weeks, even though the decision will be made by the UN Security Council, will point the way ahead for the alliance. For military action of any kind will involve Nato members. This is when the fault lines now becoming in-creasingly visible, will either close up or widen. There is no longer any scope for papering over the cracks, a familiar ploy of the alliance during Cold war rifts over such issues as short-range nuclear weapons and burden sharing.

Eastern nations pledge to join in peacekeeping

By Tom Walker in brussels, Nicholas Wood in Ottawa and Our Foreign Staff

NATO's former Warsaw Pact adversaries took the historic step yesterday of saying that they are willing to take part in joint peacekeeping missions in Europe. Manfred Wörner, the secretary-general of the Atlantic alliance, said that agree-

ment was a remarkable step. Herr Worner added that any problems with France. which is still opposed to Nato having overall command of security matters in Europe, "theoretical", and declared: "In practice, it does not hinder our concrete actions." French diplomats have become increasingly wary of the new-found American bullishness in the Balkan crisis. especially as there are no US troops in Bosnia.

In its final statement, the North Atlantic Co-operation

SLOBODAN Milosevic, the

Serbian leader, and Milan

Panic, the Yugoslav prime

minister, are running neck-

and-neck in opinion polls on

the eve of the republic's

Serbs and Montenegrins

vote tomorrow in what are

seen as crucial polls. If there

is no outright winner in the

Serbian presidential contest,

there will be a run-off in two weeks. Yesterday foreign elec-

tion observers secured per-

mission to monitor vote-

In Sarajevo, Lord Owen, the

co-chairman of the Geneva

peace conference, denied that

it had achieved nothing.

There is a real readiness that

counting.

presidential election.

MILITARY INTERVENTION

and the former Warsaw Pact foundly disturbed by the deteriorating situation in the former Yugoslavia". Beyond the rhetoric, however, there was little commitment to ac-tion, and the issue of a "no-fly" zone over Bosnia was made no

Many ministers said they were satisfied, however, by Nato's commitment on Thursday to help the United Nations to establish a "no-fly" zone. We can use force only to protect humanitarian convoys and to enforce a 'no-fly zone," said Krzysztof Skubiszewski, the Polish foreign minister. "But we should not get involved on a bigger scale. It would mean long-term war."

FROM TIM JUDAH AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

wasn't there in September to

talk ... whether it is serious

we shall see." Muslim dele-

gates did not turn up for talks

with Croats and Serbs. Else-

where in Bosnia-Herzegovi-

na, fighting was unabated. In Serbia, the United Na-

tions delivered food and bed-

ding to refugees in Ljubovija who had fled from Bratunac

after advances by Bosnian forces from the enclave of Sre-

brenica. Bosnian Serb sources

claim that 109 Serbs have

died in the past few days and

nian Serb leader, yesterday

Radovan Karadzic, the Bos-

that many were mutilated.

There was no sign that former Warsaw Pact troops will move en bloc to support Nato action. "Our countries are ready to support and contribute on a case by-case basis to peacekeeping opera-tions under UN authority," the statement read. In America, Lawrence Eagleburger, the Secretary of State, said he welcomed the support of the

East European countries.

John Major, who visited Canada on his way to Washington, has won Ottawa's backing in his attempt to persuade America and France to adopt a less hawkish approach to the enforcement of the "no-fly" zone over Bosnia. Today, the prime minister will urge President Bush, in

called on the international

community to send monitors

to the frontlines. This is a

good opportunity to really see

who is aggressive and who favours continuing the war,"

he said. But most Western

observers say that any such

monitoring would consolidate

British UN forces in central

Bosnia hope to arrange local

Christmas truces. However, as many combatants are Mus-

lims, and Orthodox Serbs celebrate the festival next

month, this gesture seemed doomed to failure.

In northern Bosnia, Serbs

closed Manjaca prison camp

and urged the last 420 prison-

the partition of Bosnia.

2,000 troops in Bosnia pro-tecting United Nations humanitarian relief convoys. Mr Major's task today is to curb American enthusiasm for the most stringent enforcement of the zone by impress-Polls point to a close finish ing on President Bush the dangers to peacekeeping forces of precipitate action. between Milosevic and Panic

A joint announcement paying the way for an enforcement resolution in the security council is expected tomorrow. The prime minister said it was important to be precise about the meaning of enforcement. It could cover measures to ensure aircraft did not take off, forcing them down, or the "most severe form": shooting strong preference at this stage is for measures limiting the likelihood of outright aerial combat over Bosnia involving

Douglas Hogg, the Foreign Office minister, will leave today on a four-day visit to southeastern Europe to discuss the crisis in the former Yugoslavia. The Foreign Of-fice said yesterday that Mr Hogg would meet President Tudiman of Croatia in

However, his first stop will be in Bucharest, where he hopes to meet Teodor Melescanu, the Romanian foreign minister, to discuss cooperation on the enforcement of UN sanctions against Ser-bia and Montenegro. In New York yesterday, the security council condemned

reported mass rapes of Muslim women in Bosnia and requested UN armed escorts for European human rights monitors investigating camps where the atrocities occurred. In Bosnia, Marine Captain Gaetan Le Henaff, a French officer with the UN Protection Force, was wounded by a sniper at Sarajevo airport on Thursday. He will be flown to

cemetery of Bosnian war victims in Sarajevo before returning to London. Yesterday, after his six-day visit to former Yugoslavia, he said that a "watershed

desperately wanted peace. The international community must be prepared to act to ensure the maintenance of a Muslim homeiand and prevent Sarajevo's fall.

Children of **Balkans** get lesson in hardship

FROM RUTH GLEDHILL

WHAT remains of the Muslim Burzic family was huddled together on a blanket-covered mattress in a crowded room that smelled of socks, damp

Sajma Burzic, 27, cuddled her year-old daughter, Dursuna Her husband is in a concentration camp in Serboccupied territory. Her mother and father are with her and 400 other refugees, crowded

BOSHIA

into a former monastery and school in Travnik, a few miles from the front line.

They told us that they pray five times a day but cannot go to the mosque near by because there are no washing facilities to clean themselves as their religion demands. They are shelled almost nightly by Serb gunners in the hills overlooking the town.

In a similar room next door. Saneia Zenkic, a refugee from Prijedor in eastern Bosnia, teaches the 100 children housed in the school to read, write and sing Bosnian an-thems, although some child-ren as old as 11 and 12 have lost the will or ability to read after seeing their fathers, undead. Sanela is trying to organise a New Year party but does not have enough presents to go round.

The refugees in the school and 200 in the gymnasium next door, which is served by one small shower room, have been given rice and old clothes but cannot keep warm. They need vitamins and higher quality food if their survival through the winter is to be

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Kohl seeks to widen field of **Bundeswehr operations**

owns unde Serbian shell fire

Town

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN BONN

THE German Bundeswehr is an army that was never meant to fight. Only a handful of its soldiers have ever heard a shot fired in anger. Now Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, wants to be able to use German forces in peacekeeping operations outside the Nato area.

Until recently, the only circumstances in which German units could have become engaged were those of a Soviet attack on the West. Bonn wishes to see the force increasingly engaged in United Nations, and possibly Nato,

The mission in Somalia announced by Herr Kohl this week has been criticised by the opposition Social Democrats as contrary to the constitution. The Social Democrats have offered to help change the constitution, but will impose various conditions, trying to prevent the troops from becoming involved

peacemaking".

the government's present orders, which speak of the German troops being sent only when the others have "restored order". The bulk of

the 1,500 or so soldiers would be transport troops, medical teams and engineers, guarded by 200 to 300 infantry. Bonn has insisted that because of Nazi atrocities in

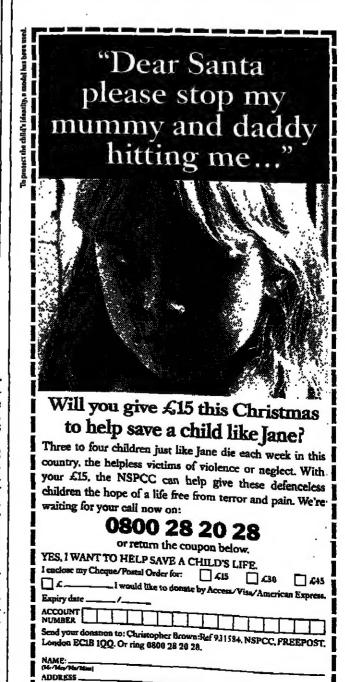
Yugoslavia during the second world war, there can be no question of sending German ground troops there. However, Herr Kohl carefully did not rule out using the Luftwaffe to help enforce an air-exclusion zone. German generals are very anxious not to get involved. Some even argued against German naval participation in checking violations of the UN trade embargo in

the Adriatic. Friedrich Bohl, Herr Kohl's chief of staff, said yesterday that the Somali operation is

tution, which allows participation in "systems of collective security". It has also been emphasised that the troops would be volunteers.

The reform now proceeding in the Bundeswehr is designed to produce a two-class army: a large force of conscripts for national defence, and smaller, better equipped and motivat-ed forces for service abroad. The Franco-German corps due to be completed by 1995, will belong to these.

The sensitivity in Germany of anything to do with armed force is a reaction against the militarism that led the country into two world wars. Herr Kohl says that involvement in UN operations is not just a German duty as a UN member, but will also help Germany get a permanent seat on the UN Security Council. The chancellor's moves highlight the new Germany's



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India sends three famine relief ships

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Pentagon braced for casualties in Somalia

As President Bush considers a Christmas trip to boost US morale, defence planners are urgently debating whether they should order their troops to disarm the gunmen

> By Jamie Deitmer in Washington AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AS SOMALI gunmen regained their nerve yesterday and began to venture out on the streets of Mogadishu in full view of American and French troops, Pentagon officials acknowledged it was only a matter of time before there are US casualties.

American marines came under fire for the first time in Baidoa while on night patrol on Thursday. Gun battles between rival dans were reported to have spread in Mogadishu and it was confirmed that three Somali gunmen were killed on Tuesday night after they shot at a group of marines in the American embassy compound. French troops also came under fire on Thursday night in the capital, but none was hurt,

The reappearance of the gunmen has renewed a policy



India sends three famine relief ships

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

INDIA is sending three ships to Somalia with relief supplies to join Operation Restore Hope, launched by America under the aegis of the United Nations.

The three ships being sent to Somalia will be used primarily to ply along the coast with food stocks. The Indian govern-ment has also offered to send 3,000 ground troops, including a medical team. They will join 700 Pakistani troops already in Somalia. Islamabad says that it plans to send additional troops.

In another development yesterday, Japan, eager to avoid international criticism about its decision not to send its own troops to Somalia, pledged about £62 million to fund other nations' military

operations there.

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debate in the Pentagon over whether American troops should forcibly disarm clan members. General Joseph Hoar, commanding officer of American Central Command, said in Mogadishu that a reduction in arms was the key to success for the American humanitarian mission in Somalia. "What we are trying to achieve is arms control." he said. But he failed to detail how this would be achieved.

A senior Bush administra-tion official said last night that the president was considering making a Christmas visit to Somalia. "The trip would be to bring cheer to the troops and thank them for what they are doing there." The official added that the visit, which is considered dangerous by the Secret Service, must first clear security hurdles.

Somali religious leaders crit-icised the Americans yesterday for backing off from disarm-ing the gunmen. Shaikh Ali Haj Yusuf said that the gun-men hid their weapons when the Americans arrived 11 days ago, afraid that they would be armed. "When they realised that the marines were not going to confront them, they began digging up their guns. Now no one dares to go out after 5pm for fear of being robbed by the gunmen."

Relief workers are claiming that the security situation is worsening in areas where there are no American troops. Clashes between gunmen have been reported in the north of the country and are now spreading south. In Baidera, Shalkh Mursal Ali Yusuf, the town's religious leader, was shot dead by a gang believed to be Islamic fundamentalists. With power cut, a Red Cross team had operated on him for three hours by torchlight. Djama, an elderly resident, recalled that Shaikh Mursal, 60, was already the imam in Baidera before Mohamed Siad Barre came to power". The Somali dictator took office in 1969 and was overthrown in Jamu-

ary last year. We want the American soldiers and those from other countries to come to Baidera," said General Ahmed Warsame, who belongs to the Marehan clan of Mr Siad Barre. "They will be wel-come." His house was guarded by three machineguns and there were plenty of firearms out on the streets, but the general said that he was ready to disarm his people once troops of Operation Restore



Gun law: Somalis turning in their weapons to a US marine before entering Baidoa airport yesterday. The guns are returned on leaving

Two Kims fight for key to Blue House

By Joanna Pitman

remained unwelcome.

This is a genuine compen-

tion for office between and

among parties, which is a lot

more than can be said about

elections in most other Asian countries, even bona fide de-

mocracies such as Japan,"

Han Sung Joo, a professor of political science at Korea

The campaign has had its low moments. There has been

no shortage of accusations,

ugliness and dishonesty. The

electorate has been treated to

the unedifying spectacle of all

three main candidates attack-

ing one another. The tempo of

insults has been raised in the

past week and claims of cor-

In contrast to the last presidential election, in 1987, which delivered the former

military leader, Roh Tae Woo,

into the Blue House, there has

been more clarity, more open-

ness and more thoughtful

policy debate, however. Having lived through 26 years of

military authoritarian regimes

between 1961 and 1987 and

then five years of semi-populist rule, marred by strikes, the people are ready to embrace their new leader and settle

down to an era of steady

economic growth.

ruption have been rife.

University, said.

SOUTH Koreans turned out in force yesterday to vote in a milestone presidential election that will send the country's first civilian leader to the Blue House in more than 30 years. Over three-quarters of the electorate, wrapped in rugs to ward off sub-zero temperatures, cast their votes, reflecting the nation's continuing tion for a democratic tradi-

tion that is only five years old. The two Kims — the ruling Democratic Liberal party can-didate Kim Young Sam and the main opposition Demo-cratic party's Kim Dae Jung beared to be neck and neck. as the month-long campaign officially closed on Thursday.

The winner is likely to be determined, however, by the performance of the third main candidate, Chung Ju Yung, the founder of Hyundai and the workers' hero who rose from an impoverished and uneducated rice delivery boy to found South Korea's most powerful industrial conglomerate. His professional campaign has tapped his com-paign has tapped his com-pany's workforce of 100,000 for campaign staff and was showing signs of stealing much of Kirn Young Sam's voter support last week. South Korea does not permit official exit polls, but unofficial television network polls showed Kim Young Sam to be taking a marginal lead as the polling

booths closed last night.

If this election is perceived to be an equitable one, which is by no means a certainty, it

could prove to be a landmark

people vote today in the first election for the island's parlianot only in the democratic development of South Korea but also in terms of the ment since veteran Nationalist development of the Asian politicians were forcibly region, where in many countries capitalism has been encouraged but democracy has

free parliamentary elections here in over four decades," said one foreign diplomat. The veterans, or so-called "old thieves", held phantom Chinese mainland seats since 1949, the year Mao Tse-tung's Red Army drove Chiang Kai-shek's Kuomintang from the mainland.

One woman candidate borrowed idols of Chinese from temples and drove them through Taipei in a hundred campaign lorries to draw the votes of believers. Another candidate for a minority party. Hsu Shao-Tan, a former nude dancer, appeared topless at a



Taiwan voters take another step on road to democracy

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN TAIPEI

HALF of Taiwan's 20 million

"In effect, these are the first

counter China's military

election rally. Her slogan is: "Hsu Shao-Tan loves everybody". A more sinister note was struck when a campaignindependence.

er was shot at yesterday but saved by his bullet-proof vest. Up to the last minute, mud slinging allegations of votebuying were legion. At one rally, 10,000 supporters of the opposition Democratic Prossive Party heard speakers call for a march on the prime minister's residence. Else-where, to mixed political and Christmas jingles, a Demo-cratic Progressive candidate burnt Kuomintang and China flags, accusing the ruling Kuo-mintang of "collaborating with Peking to sell out Taiwan". For all the hype and bally-

hoo, a more open political process is emerging and the new parliament will become the centre of political power in Taiwan, with law making responsibility, control of budgets and the power to select the island's prime minister. "The more democracy we have, the stronger we are." Jason Hu. a government spokesman, said. Taiwan is also buying American and French warplanes to

might.
With these elections, the economically burgeoning island wants to show the mainland, with whom its businessmen are now doing deals, cashing in on cheap labour and land, that a peaceful evolution to at least a limited democracy is possible in a

Chinese setting, diplomats say. Peking, however, has warned against calls for

There is no chance the Kuomintang, with its strong financial resources and control of the media, military and other institutions, is going to lose power soon. It is emphasising its record of bringing prosperi ty and stability to Taiwan while retaining the goal of re-unification. Commentators say that while authoritarian rule has gone, the power of money has taken over. But the Progressive Party, which backs improved social welfare and curbs on big business, as well as supporting Taiwanese language, culture and traditions, could win 45 seats out of the 161 seats in parliament, up from its present 18, and emerge as a credible opposi-

ENEWS AN ERIEF Afghan raiders target refugees

Kabul: Thousands of refugees are still fleeing to Afghanistan are still fleeing to Afghanistan from fighting in Tajikistan, despite the risk of being robbed by raiders who steal the vehicles the exiles used in their escape (Andrew Finkel writes). According to a medical relief agency working in the northern Afghan city of Mazare-Sharif, many of the polygees arrive suffering from refugees arrive suffering from bullet wounds. There are also reports of rioting within the

three main refugee camps.
An estimated 35,000 people have escaped into Afghanistan from Tajikistan. Although this is a lower figure than the international aid community first produced, it represents a substantial problem for a country more used to generating its own refugees. Calcula-tions of the numbers on the Tajikistan side of the border and of those refugees still to come vary from 20,000 to ten times that number.

UN men freed

Phnom Penh: Khmer Rouge guerrillas in central Cambo-dia released 46 UN peace-keepers who had been held northwest of the capital. It was not clear whether the captors had received written instruc-tions from a Khmer Rouge commander, General Men Ron, to free them. (AP)

Budget cut

Tokyo: The Japanese government lowered the budget ceil-ing of its five-year defence programme by £2.9 billion but announced that it would buy four Awaes (Airborne Warn-ing and Control System) aircraft from America, costing £289 million each. (Reuter)

Return trip

Nairobi: Five hundred Ethiopians, provided with cereals and cooking oil, voluntarily returned to their homeland, marking the start of a repatriation programme of about 50,000 Ethiopians from refugee camps in northern Kenya, the UN said. (AP)

Poll boycotted

Difbouti: The first multiparty elections in this tiny East African nation's 15 years of independence took place in the face of an opposition boycott to mark the anniversary of a confrontation with security forces in which 30 people died. (AP)

Work-shy Russians look for capitalist gain without pain

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN MOSCOW

The young man in search of an interpreter's job had a near-impeccable Eng-lish accent, a promising CV and, we fondly imagined, would be keen to work for dollars. As it soon turned out, he was much keener on the dollars than the work. He sat back, heard the offer and considered. "Well, all right, but I can't start till twelve because I have a morning job." Could he stay

until the end of the evening

news? "It depends. There

must be flexibility to allow me to do my shopping."

The idea that a job was something around which shopping and part-time earning scams had to be fitted, rather than vice-versa, came as a shock to him. Russians have adapted with impressive speed to the culture of buying and selling but are less susceptible to the work ethic. The "jobs want-ed" column in weekly news-

papers such as Vsyo Dhya Vas (Everything For You) makes entertaining reading. "I am looking for a well-remunerated job but would prefer to work at home, says one. Another offers No professional skills but good-will for dollars." I am perversely enticed by the letter which reached the Moscow

'Oh Russia. Russia! What a lot of useless idlers you carry on your back! Chekhov, The Fiancée, 1903

office from Irkutsk: "I would like to work for The Times but I am not a journalist," it announced. "It does not marter accommodation: I can live in office."

An Izvestia columnist recently thundered that Russians' attempts to lure em-ployers could be reduced to the formula: "A person is looking for a job where he can get a lot - preferably in hard currency - for doing nothing ... In general Russians want to work the way they did under socialism but live like people do under capitalism."

or an ideology which glorified labour and the working class, communism managed to produce a society with a deep aversion to work. Not that work ever had a particularly good name in Slavic culture. Compare British, German and Russian proverbs on the subject and

you will find that while the first two recommend labour as a moral straightener, the Russians prefer to avoid it. The old saying had it that "Work is a wolf. It will not run away into the forest" i.e. "don't chase it" - which gave way to the splendidly sardonic motto of the stagnation years: "We pretend to work and the state pretends to pay us".

Work-shy Russians are bemoaned throughout Chekhov's tales and in The Fiancée, he deepens the irony in the figure of the shift-less Andrei who pities his country for having citizens as lazy as himself. "I never do a thing I just can't. Why do I feel so edgy when I see a lawyer, a Latin teacher or a local counsellor?... My dear, lyna cuffering, native land. long-suffering native land, there are so many like me that you have to tolerate."

Things may be changing. A St Petersburg television station now has slots informing people how to fill in application forms (a new arrival in most Russian enterprises). The American entrepreneur Mark MacCormack, with his thresome recipes on how to work harder, longer and better than your competitor, has also arrived (bootlegged) on Russian bookstalls.

Yeltsin announcement of nuclear deal astounds US

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

PRESIDENT Yeltsin said in Peking yesterday that next month he and President Bush would sign the Start 11 treaty to cut strategic nuclear weapons by two-thirds.

He made his disclosure unexpectedly, diverting from the text of a prepared speech to 300 Chinese intellectuals who had gathered at the state guest house, Diaoyutai, expecting to hear a lecture on the history of Sino-Russian friendship. "I can say that an agree-

ment is prepared on Start II on global cuts in strategic weapons by two-thirds be-tween the United States and Russia," he told his bemused audience, "and it can be signed by January next year."
Later, he told a press conference that he expected the signing to take place in Alaska. Yuri Petrov, an aide to Mr Yeltsin, said the signing had been set for January 4.

Vyacheslav Kostikov, Mr Yeltsin's spokesman, said the president had not discussed the release of the news with Washington. In Brussels, Lawrence Eagleburger, the American Secretary of State. said he was not aware that a US-Russian deal to slash their arsenals of long-range nuclear weapons had been reached. "I don't know anything more than what I've heard out of

Peking. I hope he is right."

During the press conference, President Yeltsin talked

of reducing 13,000 strategic nuclear weapons to 2,500 or 3,000, but it was not clear whether he was referring to figures that would be written into Start II. He said that the \$400 million (£253 million) Russia had so far received from Washington to pay for the destruction of nuclear warheads was "too little". Another example of Presi-

dent Yeltsin's unpredictability came when he remarked casually that Deng Xiaoping, China's senior leader, was "not feeling too well, unfortunately". This potentially important news for China's domestic scene was delivered in a throwaway line and never clarified.

Mr Deng is 88 years old and is the driving force behind China's reform programme. Analysis say that China may be plunged into chaos on his death. Chinese leaders usually insist that Mr Deng is very well It was not clear where President Yeltsin had heard of

Mr Deng's ill health. President Yelisin said that China and Russia signed 24 agreements yesterday, a figure which, he said, should be published in The Guinness Book of Records. Perhaps the most important agreement is a mercendum on military. a memorandum on military co-operation, which Mr Yeltsin emphasised had been

signed at the insistence of Li

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Peng, the Chinese prime minister. President Yeltsin gave no

details of specific arms deals, but made clear that he had no inhibitions about such things. "We are prepared to co-operate in all sectors," he said in comments that are likely to make Washington quake, "in-

cluding the most sophisticated weapons and armaments ... We would like to build our relations on a sound commercial basis. China is one of the most financially solvent countries ... we will be able to provide China with the best technology and equipment." Peking has already ordered 24 Su27 fighter jets and is

believed to be negotiating for MiG31s. Lat month, there were unconfirmed reports from Moscow that Russia intended to pay off \$500 million of its \$1.07 billion debt to China in the form of military hardware. Such reports have alarmed Asian countries, which worry about the prospect of an expansionist China, as well as Washington, which fears Peking will re-

export high-tech weaponry.
Under the accords, Moscow
will provide \$2.5 billion credit to Peking for Russia to build a nuclear power plant in the Chinese city of Liaoning. The credit will be repaid in barter trade and hard currency. China will provide 300 million yuan (£33 million) in credit for food purchasing.

Simon Jenkins, page 12



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Israelis hail Rabin but Arabs vow new round of violence

■ The deportation of Arabs has brought condemnation from abroad. It could also mark the end of the Middle East peace process

FROM BEN LYNFIELD IN JERUSALEM AND CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

YTTZHAK Rabin's government was riding on a wave of popularity at home yesterday after its mass expulsion of alleged Muslim hardliners that drew sharp criticism from

Palestinians in the occupied territories reacted with anger and calls for heightened confrontation with security forces after the 418 suspected members of the Hamas Islamic resistance movement and the Islamic Jihad organisation were sent into exile at the edge of Israel's "security zone" in south Lebanon. Arab moderates were under

mounting pressure to pull out of the tragile Middle East peace process in response to the deportations, the biggest such expulsion of Arabs since the 1967 war. The Palestinians have already pledged to boycott the 14-month-old peace process until the deportees are returned to their homes, a move which Israeli officials say will not be made munity commits Israel to re-because of overwhelming Is- spect international law".



raeli Jewish support for the government's action. A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation official confirmed in Tunis that Palestinian participation in the talks, the next round of which is not expected until February, was suspended "until the international community commits Israel to re-

West fears return to hijacking era

By Christopher Walker

AFTER 14 months, the dead-Arenner in locked Middle East peace talks begun with such hope were last night closer than ever to collapse. Western intelligence experts believe that, should the talks break down,

> be expected, with the threat of a new Arab-Israeli war. "It is now certain the evergreen Palestinian problem must figure high on the foreign priorities of the new Clinton administration," said a European diplomat. "With-

a swift return to terrorist

tactics such as hijacking could

out some formidable American diplomacy, pack of cards could fall." Since Israel began separate talks with Jordan, Syria, Leba-non and the Palestinians, the main achievement has simply been that they were talking. If

that stops, there will be little

to show for the exercise. With the biggest peacetime expulsion of Arabs winning overwhelming support among Israeli Jews, the chances of the climbdown demanded by Arab leaders appeared thin. The Hebrew daily Ha'aretz reported that Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister,

was indeed planning 55 more

the agenda is now being set by the extremists," said one Arab official. "What the Israelis have done is an invitation to all those who oppose the peace talks to turn to those who backed it and say. 'I told

The crisis over the deporta-

tions, which followed the kid-

nap and murder of an Israeli border policeman by Islamic fundamentalists of the Hamas group, threatens to destroy the main foreign policy achievement of the outgoing Bush administration months after expectations were raised by the election of a supposedly dovish administration in Jerusalem. Mr Rabin has proved a tough negotiator who has refused to make the concessions to the Palestine Liberation Organisation that might have helped it defeat criticism from Palestinian rejectionists. Palestinians who welcomed Labour's victory likened the expulsion orders

deportations. The crying shame is that

to extreme right-wing Israeli calls for the "transfer" of

Yassir Abed-Rabbo, a member of the PLO's executive committee, said that representatives of Arab participants in the talks - Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, the Palestinians and Egypt - would meet in Cairo within days to take a stand. "We cannot continue the negotiations under terrorism and extremism," he said. Mr Rabin's usual critics on the right applauded the expul-sions but the left-wing Meretz party, a key partner in his coalition, condemned its leaders' support for the expulsions, calling the banishment a violation of human rights and the principles of international law. A poll in the Yediot Ahronot

indicated that 91 per cent of the public supported the deponations. As public outrage and desire for a reprisal after the kidnapping and killing of Sergeant Major Nissim Toledano, a border police-man, by Hamas militants grew in Israel, Mr Rabin dismissed contentions that the deportees were being denied justice. "Did Nissim Toledano

The abduction and attacks that killed five other members of the security forces within a week exposed the government to charges of failure in securing the two things Mr Rabin promised before being elected in June: security and peace.

have a right of appeal?" he

In the West Bank and Gaza a leaflet issued by Hamas called on Palestinian groups to work together to combat the expulsions. Harnas vowed in the circular to "fight every Zionist living in the land of Palestine". The PLO's unified national leadership of the intifada issued a leaflet calling for "ten days of confrontation" with the army, beginning today. "The expulsions will not end violence. On the contrary they will increase despair and frustration," As-

Families of the 1,600 suspects jailed during this week's crackdown were given no word about whether their relatives were among the 418 people expelled. "Wives have been calling me and children are asking me about their fathers but we are simply at a loss," Bassem Eid, for the Israeli Betselem human rights organisation, said.

> Deportees pray, page 1 Leading article and letters, page 13



Steps to normality: Muslims facing Mecca pray yesterday at the Jama Masjid, India's most important mosque, in Delhi for the first time after Hindu fundamentalists destroyed the mosque in Ayodhya two weeks ago. The devout came to attend Friday prayers after religious violence abated and a curlew was lifted in the capital. The unrest

injured. The government said that it would start building a new mosque in Ayodhya within a year, but Hindu extremists threatened to knock that down as well. In a crackdown on religious hardliners, the government banned five sectarian organisations, three Hindu and two Muslim.

US fears Saddam attack on Kurd enclave

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein has reportedly massed forces close to northern Iraq's Kurdish enclave, raising Pen-tagon fears that he could suddenly attack an area that has been under UN military protection since the Gulf war. Saddam has moved several divisions within striking distance of the enclave, ABC television and The New York

they were on exercises.

We have no insight on Saddam's intentions," one Pentagon official was quoted as saying. "We're watching matters closely." Diplomats here expect an early Iraqi test of Bill Clinton's resolve, and believe America's preoccupation with Somalia and Bosnia could also embolden Saddam.

Times reported. Iraq claimed

Five weeks before Mr Clinton's inauguration, it is already clear that foreign crises will distract the man who promised to concentrate on America's domestic problems. He used Thursday's announcement of two new appointments to address the Middle East peace talks and Bosnia, and rushed back when a reporter shouted a question about President

Yeltsin as he was leaving. Even before Thursday's expulsion of 400 Palestinians from Israel the Middle East peace talks were in effect on hold, awaiting Mr Clinton's accession. He pledged to do everything in his power to murture the peace talks and produced a carefully balanced statement on the expulsions.

Mr Clinton's intervention last week inspired this week's US pressure on allies for tougher action against Serbia. but on Thursday he directed his remarks to the Serbian people, urging them to eject Slobodan Milosevic in tomorrow's presidential election.

Mr Clinton also threw his weight behind the beleaguered Mr Yeltsin. He told The Wall Street Journal yes-terday America had to find new ways of convincing the Russian people that "if they stick with freform) there is in fact a rainbow at the end of the tough road."

Rome: The UN World Food Programme said yesterday it would continue its winter relief operation for Kurds in northern Iraq in spite of firebomb attacks on its trucks. But it said another convoy of trucks would depart only when the UN arranges additional security. The agency said eight trucks were blown up near Zakhu on Thursday after delivering food and that bombs were found on nine others. (AP)

NEWS IN BRIEF Baker faces election enquiry

Washington: The American amorney-general appointed an independent prosecutor earlier this week to investigate allegations that senior Bush administration officials, in-cluding James Baker, the White House chief of staff. initiated or tried to cover up an apparently illegal search by the State Department for Bill Clinton's passport files during the presidential election (Jamie Dettmer writes).

Mr Baker and two of his top aides. Margaret Tutweiler, the White House communications director, and Janet Mullins, the White House political director, hired criminal lawyers soon after the White House was informed by the attorney general, William Barr, of the appointment of a prosecutor. The passport searches probably broke provisions of the Privacy Act.

Pact signed

Ankara: Turkey and Hungary signed a security co-operation agreement to fight terrorism and crime. Ismet Sezgin, the Turkish interior minister, said the two countries would also work to tackle drug production and smuggling, (Reuter)

Staff dismissed

Berlin: Two big employers, Coca-Cola and BMW, have both fired a member of staff for making Hitler salutes or anti-semitic remarks in Germany's first known sackings for the expression of right-wing attitudes, company of-ficials said yesterday. (AFP)

Officer arrested

Moscow: Police arrested an army officer who tried to sell 66 original decrees signed by Tsar Alexander I, a newspaper said. A potential buyer had called the Central State Archives, from where the collection was stolen in 1979, to confirm authenticity. (AP)

Peru shooting

Lima: Gunmen killed Pedro Huillea, secretary-general of the General Confederation of it was not clear who was responsible. A march against working conditions led by the group on Thursday was broken up by police. (Reuter)

Tax verdict

Madrid: Juan Guerra, the brother of Alfonso Guerra, the former Spanish deputy prime minister, was sentenced to a year in prison and fined £85,000 for tax evasion. The jail sentence was suspended pending the hearing of other corruption charges.

Socialist U-turn puts Fabius in the dock



Fabius: infuriated the Socialist rank and file

AFTER two days of selfdestructive manoeuvres, the governing Socialist party in France agreed yesterday to send Laurent Fabius, its leader, to stand trial with two former ministers for their role in the Aids blood scandal.

Arabs to Jordan.

The week's tragicomic series of U-turns by the Socialists in the long-running affair was widely viewed as the final nail in the electoral coffin of the party that François Mitterrand founded and then led to power in 1981. A poll this week indicated that the disclosure that high officials had knowingly distributed HIV-

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS contaminated blood was the event that has most concerned the public this year (next came the rise in unemployment and then the famine in Somalia). With parliamentary elections only three months away,

Bernard Kouchner, the health and humanitarian action minister, who is not a party member, described the scan-dal as a "Chernobyl" for French society.
The Socialist executive acted yesterday after M Fabius, the prime minister at the time of

the 1985 blood decision, re-

versed a move only two days

earlier to extract himself from

trial. That action had infuriated the party rank and file who saw it as desertion by the captain of a sinking ship. In response, they defied the president's instructions and blocked the procedure to put Georgina Dufoix and Edmond Hervé, former health ministers, before the parliamentary tribunal.

M Mitterrand and his government had called on the party to accept the opposition's call for a trial as a way of clearing the air and defusing the charges that the Socialists

go ahead with the trial amounted to a suicidal act. given the degree to which public opinion is inflamed over what is seen as the evasion of ministerial respon-sibility in the Mitterrand administration. It was also a symptom of the feeling among many Socialists that M Mitterrand and his government

have let them down. The centre-left Liberation said: "Their party resembles Windsor Castle after the fire and, like Charles and Diana. they are splitting up." Le Monde noted that M Fabius. who is 46, had switched back to volunteering for trial only after Socialist barons had persuaded him that the survival of the party, and his career, were

Offering to submit to justice, M Fabius called for the National Assembly to vote on the ministerial impeachment be-fore the end of the parliamentary session tomorrow, but it seemed likely that no vote would be taken until well into the new year. Even if all the procedural hurdles are cleared and the so-called high court is convened for the first time in modern French history, no trial is likely to take place until after the March elections. Polls indicate that the Gaullist

dropped fraud charges against Bernard Tapie, the Socialist entrepreneur who

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This year, Europe's refugee crisis is the worst since the end of World War II. The escalating tragedy in former Yugoslavia has already added 2 million more to a worldwide total The escalating tragedy in former

of 18 million homeless refugees. The UN High Commissioner for UNA - UK

Refugees (UNHCR) provides life's bare essentials - food, shelter, medicine - and lays the foundations for longer-term support. But in 1992, we're working with only half the resources we had 10 years ago.

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MEPs squabble over spoils of office

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

Tohn Major blandly told members of the European parliament this week that we have solved the main problems confronting the Community". The members of parliament beg to differ. They are quarelling as vi-ciously as ever over where they should live and work. The fiercest arguments at

the Edinburgh summit were not over the subtleties of the Danish question or the arithmetic of "cohesion". but over the EC's ludicrous 30year game of Monopoly played with the glass palaces in which its Eurocrats, ministers and MEPs wrangle, waf-fle and write. Should Frankfurt, Luxembourg, Amsterdam or London house a European central bank - if such a thing ever comes into existence? Who wins the European plant breeders' rights centre, or the Community's infant FBI called "Europol"? Some Community prime ministers may spooze while

their colleagues drone on about subsidiarity, but every single one snapped awake when Mr Major broached the delicate topic of carving up the spoils from nine European institutions long paralysed by the French refusal to give up the parhament's base in Strasbourg. In the end, Mr Major won

a small battle that will worsen the long-running war between Brussels, where MEPs do most of their work, and Strasbourg where, ac-companied by 1,000 metal boxes of paperwork and 1,400 staff, parliamentarians move once a month. The summit merely agreed to split the parliament between three cities. "Plenary" sessions will continue in Strasbourge committee meetings will stay in Brussels; and a large chunk of the staff, not to mention the MEPs' library, sits in Luxembourg.

A compromise designed to please everyone has only unleashed the latest round of an ever-more expensive auction for the loyalty of the MEPs and the lobbyists, reporters and diplomats who trail round the motorways of Western Europe trying to keep up with them.

he MEPs are furious that I they were not allowed to settle their own fate and are threatening to take the summittees to court. The cities of Brussels and Strasbourg are plunging into a billion-pound race to build ever more luxurious quarters for the tribunes of the peoples of Europe. The burghers of Brussels have the edge. Next month. small but significant ceremonies will take place in both the Belgian and Alsatian capitals. An "opening ceremony" will be performed at the gigantic Espace Leopold complex rising out of the mud near the jumble of buildings that houses the EC's institutions in Brussels, although the offices will not operate until next summer. Over in Strasbourg, a contract will be signed for an equally vast new stately pleasure dome due to open for business in the mid-1990s. The total cost of both projects, mostly met by the cities, comes to more than £1 ☐ Bonn: The upper house of

the German parliament ap-proved the Maastricht treaty yesterday, completing Bonn's ratification process. (Reuter)

and centre-right parties are heading for a big victory. Fresh woes were piled on to the Socialists yesterday when a Breton judge indicted Antoine Dufoix, husband of the former minister, for fraud in connecparliamentary election cam-paign in 1988. There was one item of good news for the party, however. Another judge

tion with the financing of her

served briefly as the urban

Put out more mistletoe and prepare to worship the sun, it is time for Christmas to return to its pagan roots, writes Ian Bradley

hould Christians give up celebrating Christmas and hand it back to devotees of paganism and New Age religion? That may seem a strange proposal to make on the eve of what is the church's busiest time of the year. Yet celebrations at Stonehenge would in many ways provide a more authentic witness to the origins of the festive season than cathedral carol services.

It is bad enough to discover that Christmas cards and trees were Victorian inventions. What is much more unsettling is the fact that Christmas itself was an invention of the fourth-century Roman church, a deliberate ecclesiastical takeover of long-standing pagan rites.

There is, of course, no biblical warrant for celebrating Jesus's birth on December 25. The Gospels give no ciue to the time of year in which the Nativity took place and the early church does not seem to have had any interest in celebrating this event anyway. In so far as it had any special day in the year that was Easter Sunday when Christ's resurrection was celebrated.

It was not until more than 300

O come all ye heathens

years after the death of Jesus that Christians started celebrating Christmas. The earliest recorded celebration of the birth of Jesus on December 25 seems to have taken place in Rome in the year 336. towards the end of the reign of Constantine, the first Christian Roman emperor. The choice of this particular day by the ecclesiastical authorities was almost certainly made to hijack the highly popular pagan festivals which fell at the end of the year. It was part of a deliberate and extremely successful policy by which the customs and traditions of the ancient world were appropriated by the newly fashion-able and, since Constantine's conversion, politically correct religion of Christianity.

December 25 had been the dies natalis invicti, the day on which the Romans, in common with many other peoples in the ancient world, marked the birthday of the unconquered sun, rising again after the darkness of winter. There is considerable evidence of an intermingling of the worship of Jesus, the Son of God, and the cult of the unconquered sun god, not least in the behaviour of Constantine himself. He seems to have hedged his bets by having both the image of Christ and the face of the sun depicted on his coins and proclaiming Sunday as a day of rest throughout the empire to please both Christians and pagan sun

worshippers.

By establishing its new feast day at the end of December the church also neatly stole the limelight from two other pagan rites, the saturnalia which ran from December 17 to 23 and the kalends celebrated on new year's day. Elements of both these highly convivial festivals were to be incorporated into the Christian festive season, perhaps as pagans got their own back on

Christian attempts to muscle in on their fun. It is not difficult to see the origins of the office party in the saturnalia, a sustained period of drinking and carousing which was particularly marked by the unusual mingling of different classes of society in common jollity.

A description of the festival of the kalends by a fourth-century Greek sophist seems an even more direct anticipation of later Christmas festivities: "Everywhere may be seen carousals and well-laden tables: luxurious abundance is found in the houses of the rich, but also in the house of the poor better food than usual is put on the table. The impulse to spend seizes everyone. He who the whole year through has taken pleasure in saving and piling up his pence becomes suddenly extravagant. People are not only generous towards themselves but also to-

wards their fellow men. A stream of mas day 598 witnessed the baptism presents pours itself out on all

During the fifth century the celebration of Christmas spread from the Roman to the Eastern church which had hitherto chosen to mark Jesus's birth along with his baptism on January 6, a date associated with older heathen rites. The Jerusalem church held out against celebrating Christmas until the seventh century and the Armenian church still celebrates both the Nativity and Epiphany of Christ in January. Western Christendom, by contrast, gradually extended its Christmas celebrations to incorpo-rate more and more of the period covered by the pagan winter festi-vals. In 567 the Council of Tours gave official sanction to the 12 days of Christmas by declaring December 25 to January 6 a festal tide. Christian England took enthusi-

ly directed by Pope Gregory the Great to Christianise the principal pagan festivals of the British. Apart from a brief interlude in the mid-17th century when Oliver Cromwell prohibited plum pudding and other features of the festive season. the English churches have continued to take a benign view of Christmas and stress its essentially Christian character. Their corpo-rate advertising campaign for this year's festive season opens with the slogan: "Christmas is enough to

of more than ten thousand converts

to the faith at the hands of St

Augustine who had been specifical-

Presbyterian Scotland, however. has always been much more wary of a festival which retains so many features of its pagan origins. It is

bring anyone to their knees" and

enjoins us to "Remember what it's

all about and come to church this

only in the last 50 years or so that watchnight services and Christmas day worship has become common-place in the Church of Scotland, while the Free Church of Scotland and other smaller Presbyterian denominations still largely refuse to acknowledge as Christian a festival so associated with over-indulgence

so associated with over-indulgence and pagan symbols like yule logs, mistletoe and holly.

They have the evidence of history on their side — and given the ever-increasing obelsance paid at this season to the twin gods of greed and gluttony — perhaps a certain moral point as well. Yet, however strong the secular and commercial strong the secular and commercial forces that now surround it, the church as a whole does not look like surrendering Christmas back to the pagans - and why should it? The Devil has enough good tunes without handing him all the carols

The author teaches church history at the University of Aberdeen. His book. The Celtic Way: an exploration of Celtic Christianity in Britain, is published by Darton, Longman and Todd next month.

The pipsqueaks and Pavarotti

Richard Morrison attacks a mob

who tried to silence a great tenor

s contact with the arts inevita-bly the civilising influence that the arts lobby, swarming after the anticipated profits of a national lottery, claims? The disgraceful Pavarotti business at La Scala. Milan last week suggests the opposite. The audience's booing had little to do with how well or badly Pavarotti sang his top notes, and everything to do with a prearranged determination to wreck a performance in the most embarrassing way possible. Good-humoured partisanship has always been an ingredient of operatic life, of course: the "Callas versus Tebaldi argument was rehearsed in every box-office queue for years. And it has long been accepted that

intense rivalry is built into the fabric of modern musical Opera fans life; record companies and rival agencies fight like wildcats over prized stars. The viciousness in Milan, however, was more sinister. It reflects the moral bankruptcy of Italian artistic life, and the corruption now rife houses. Put bluntly, if a guest star at La Scala does not hand over the req-

to sinister-looking gents prior to the performance, those gents find themselves unable to assure the singer that the audience will love every minute, and the predicted catastrophe swiftly follows. Televising La Scala's first nights has only

increased the bearpit atmosphere.

That is bad enough. Even more worrying is the way that some newspaper critics have seized on the incident as a means of attacking Pavarotti. Consider the London Evening Standard, which this week printed a long attack by its opera critic, one Alexander Waugh, suggesting that "Pavarotti's blunders are the first signs of a sudden and rapid end to his career." In the course of this essay, Mr Waugh even attacked Pavarotti's knees: "His legs are now so bad that it is not just running, but walking, which is causing him problems. In Tosca at the Royal Opera House two months ago he did not move more than about 12 feet during the whole performance...and at Cavaradossi's death scene when he is shot by a firing squad, he had to slump against a bannister first and let himself down carefully."

All very damning. But can this be the same Mr Waugh who, back in that same Tosca performance with these glowing words? "At the moment he is on spectacularly fine form... and even his legs don't appear to be giving him trouble anymore. When, at the end, he is shot by a firing squad, he manages

Mr Waugh's remarkable revision of the actualité is far from unique. Critics who have never forgiven Pavarotti for his populist triumphs in the Caracalla Baths or at Hyde Park have lined up to write him off. From some of the reporting, you might have thought that this great tenor, after a 35-year career of glittering

distinction, was

of ephemera from the college grungeare usually rock circuit. Perhaps some artists bring all this on themselves. For generous in overlooking when performers in the "serious arts" the ravages decide to chase mass popularity, as Pavarotti or Nigel time has Kennedy (or, before them. James wrought on Galway) have done, they inevitably have favourites to play the game by the mass media's

rules. Popular newspapers love larger-than-life heroes; that is why they latched on to Pavarotti in the first place. But they are also addicted to novelty. Former heroes must regularly be vilified and consigned to obscurity to make way for new ones. The irony in Pavarotti's case is that there are no new tenors around with an ounce

of his star quality.

He may well be in the evening of his career. But famous singers are notoriously reluctant to say adieu to their public — and doting opera fans are usually generous about overlooking the ravages that time has wrought on their favourites. Pavarotti, however, will never be granted that courtesy. One cracked top B, and every headline will gleefully proclaim "He's finished". I do not know whether this

unsavoury business counts as "culture". But if this is the sign of a mature civilisation, then bring back cave painting. And the next time a smooth-talking arts lobbyist asks you to gamble away a few quid every week on a lottery because it will make Britain a more civilised place, ask him if he has ever been to a first night at La Scala.

Restoring a capital city

Western aid would be well spent helping to restore the crumbling buildings of Moscow

uscovites have a fantasy. from Somehow, somewhere, their city will rise again from the ashes of communism and be what it was under the Tsars, one of the great metropolises of Europe. They gaze at travel advertisements. They watch beforeand-after newsreels of post-war German cities. They recall Tolstoy's Moscow after Napoleon's retreat: "Though the ant-hill is destroyed, the ants speed about the scattered hill, dragging rubbish and corpses . . . something remains, something intangible, something that is the real Moscow.'

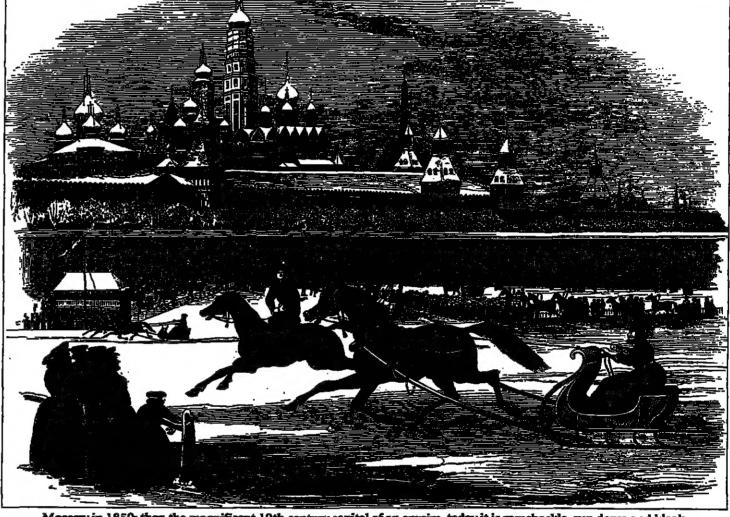
Communism is supposed to have gone. Muscovites wait and they wait. Their city in December looks its worst, dark and freezing. High in the Supreme Soviet the boyars still plot against the tsar, against Boris the Hesitant. In the streets beneath, huddled millions bend their heads against the sleet, shuffling past street vendors deep in frozen mud. Buildings stand dark and decrepit. More seem to be

ruined each time I come, victims left unburied on the long retreat from capitalism. The recent arrival of "Western

investment" has made Moscow's streets seem even more obscene The Benettons and Diors shining out of the gloom of Gum, the Kempinskis and the Savoys, may be cases for the rich. To most Muscovites, the "dollars only" sign on the doors adds humiliation to defeat. Nowhere have I seen private affluence and public squalour so garishly in contrast.

Britain is pouring \$1 billion of aid into Russia over three years. Most of it is going on credits, food and financial advice. I hope the Public Accounts Committee is getting value for money. How much is going on black markets, fuelling inflation and fees to British bankers? Could it not do more good, generate more jobs, be received with more gratitude, perhaps even be more profitable, if it were spent on helping restore Moscow? (Some of the aid, a tiny amount, is to help privatise and restore 13 old buildings in St Petersburg: no such deal

exists in Moscow.)
I am convinced that pride in the capital city is an important component of national revival: beautifying streets, monuments and public buildings, reviving craftsmanship, encouraging tourism. Most visitors see Moscow as just the Kremlin, admittedly the most spectacular architectural set piece in Europe. But for the rest of Moscow, tourists remember only the horrors:



Moscow in 1850: then the magnificent 19th-century capital of an empire, today it is ramshackle, run down and bleak

the Sadovaya ring demolished and stripped by Stalin so war planes could land; the grim Kalinin Prospekt, an avenue of glass boxes driven through the old Arbat district (the GLC wanted the same for Covent Garden, the City got the same for London Wall); the Rossiya Hotel looming over a cluster of ancient churches: the mile upon mile of "Krushchev boxes", cheap housing thrown up without thought of community; the dreary street furniture, the lack of charm in public spaces, the bleak greyness of it all. This Moscow is the night-mare realisation of the modern movement's future city.

But look deeper and a Cinderella Moscow can be found lurking behind the hoardings, the concrete forecourts, the neon lights. The cornices and peeling stucco of Alexander I's "Regency" rebuild-ing of 1812-16 are still there, as are many of the palaces and mansions, churches and monasteries. Much of Alexander's Boulevard ring survives, graceful terraces not unlike those built by Nash and Cubitt in London. There is still something saved of the old Arbat. What is the

Chelsea of the future, the old Zamoskvoreche quarter south of the river, patiently awaits first aid and reciperation.

The churches are not faring badly. Of the 500 inherited by the communists, 260 survive and 150 are already back in use. (The reopening of churches was Tol-stoy's first sign of returning Mos-cow life!) The demolished 1636 Kazan Cathedral on the corner of Red Square is even being rebuilt, as has been the great Danilov Monastery, formerly a prison. But palaces, universities, mansions sit gloomy and silent, awaiting somebody's love and money. There cannot be a capital city in the world with fewer cranes, a city in which less is actually being built.

an Britain, or the Council of Europe, not offer to restore the lovely old Pashkov House across from the Kremlin, or Gilliardi's neighbouring university building? We are paying to decommission Russia's nuclear weapons. Why not pay to decommission the Rossiya and Intourist monstrosities, surely

soon to be obsolete? But the greatest boon to Moscow would be to help restore its street architecture, development that took Moscow from the fortress of medieval autocracy to become the fastest growing and most exciting city in Europe. This can only be done by buying and paying to restore private houses or small offices.

The chief obstacle still lies in Moscow's lack of faith in its architectural glory (unlike St Petersburg). It has not found the means to sell or give state property to the private sector, or at least do so without the uncertainty of huge corruption. Property law is still hopelessly primitive.

The ant-hill activity that Tolstoy described among the 1812 Musco-

vites derived from citizens returning to "their" houses. They may have found them looted and burnt. They may have had to pillage in return. But they were undaunted. The streets teemed with builders. furnishers, carters, food vendors, Alexander's commission could rely on this enterprise and took just four years to plan the boulevard ring and see three quarters of the city's

stone houses repaired. This was phenomenal energy.

Torn asunder by Stalin and Khrushchev, impoverished and demoralised, Moscow has lost the art of domestic private enterprise. 1 wonder whether it is yet able to make use of bankers clocking up fees in the Metropole Hotel or extravagant foreign shops. What it does need is the catalyst of every booming city, immigrants who want to live there because they find it beautiful, who have money to spend on craftsmen and materials, who will demand quality, get value and set standards.

I would bet the British Treasury could do more good for Moscow by acquiring and restoring the old streets directly behind its own embassy than by pouring credits into dud factories. How marvellous if in years to come Britain could point to "Moscow in Peril" - like Venice in Peril — to restore churches, the old university, conserved façades along the Boulevard ring and in Zamoskvoreche, point and say, "We did that." For \$1 billion, you could help a lot of

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Colour of the chameleon

DID SHE or didn't she? The mystery surrounding the existence of the alleged love letters between Dame Daphne du Maurier and Gertrude Lawrence is becoming as intriguing as anything the author

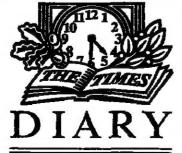
Following a letter in yesterday's Times from Margaret Forster, du Maurier's biographer, disclaiming any knowledge of the scandalous letters, comes news that Oriel Malet, a writer and friend of du Maurier's, is planning to publish her own letters from the author of Rebecca and Jamaica Inn. Malet received around 260 epistles during the course of their friendship. But before she is besieged by agents offering her vast sums, it must be pointed out that Malet has no knowledge of any lesbian affair.

Her letters from du Maurier concern the author's writings, family and friends. Malet is sceptical about the existence of the lesbian letters. Speaking from her home in Normandy she says: "I don't believe these letters exist at all". Malet saw both du Maurier and Lawrence together in New York after a performance of The King and I. "We went backstage," says Malet. "Poor Gertie was ill at that time but I detected nothing intimate between them. It was just two ladies taking tea together. "I think it is appalling that

people can write anything they like about famous people once they are dead. I know Gertrude Lawrence's family wanted to sue but then realised they couldn't under British

Malet, who stays in touch with both of du Maurier's daughters, says one of the reasons she decided to publish her book Letters from Menabilly (Weidenfeld and Nicolson, due out in May) is to counter the image of du Maurier put across by Martyn Shallcross in his book The Private Life of Daphne du Maurier.

Shallcross, who first hinted at the darker side of du Maurier, is unrepentant. He plans to republish his book in March with an extra chapter of more explicit material. He maintains the love letters. which he says number over 400, are in the hands of an anonymous friend of Dame Daphne's. Shallcross believes they will eventually be published and in the meantime is planning another book tentatively entitled Daphne



"Daphne was not a romantic novelist. She was a complicated chameleon like figure," says Shallcross. Malet, to some extent. agrees. "She was not at all judgmental," she says. "If you went to her and said you had just committed a murder she would be the first to help." Yet another reason for her feuding biographers to mourn her

Witty in the City

NORMAN LAMONT may be short of Christmas cheer, but there was little sign of it this week when he attended the seasonal bash at the London Stock Exchange before heading off to host his own personal drinks party at Number 11. Although the Downing Street affair was a little more subdued than normal, the Chancellor was at his pith-

iest among the assembled digni-taries from the City.

"How many Threshers assistants does it take to change a light bulb?" asked Lamont. "Two - but make sure you get a receipt." But while he has arguably maintained his hum-our, Lamont's second offering confirmed that 1992 has left its mark. "You know that 1792 was also a turbulent year. Britain introduced the libel act and France built its first guillotine. I can now see the merits of the French approach." So can others, but not just for the fourth

Sell-off smiles

THE auction catalogue for the sale of contents from Headington Hall, Robert Maxwell's less than elegant mansion in Oxford, was printed yesterday by Nuffield Press — for-merty owned by none other than, of course, Robert Maxwell.

The company has produced thousands of copies of Sotheby's catalogue prior to the £600,000 auction in London next month. The tycoon owned Nuffield from 1986 until a management buyout, after his death, secured a fully independent future. The company is now flourishing, according to Richard Holmes, the managing direc-tor. "I like the irony of being able to print the catalogue, it is very satisfy-

graningstad, and significative descriptions of the configuration of the



In white satin

LOCALS in the Peak district

should not be over anxious if they

chance upon a group of eight rath-

er fearsome men clad in yellow and

restoration "The artist never dies," ac-cording to Longfellow but

A palatable

he is in a sorry state if he loses his palette, as J.M.W. Turner can testify. The statue of the Victorian painter near his tomb in St Paul's Cathedral was vandalised in the 1880s when its wooden palette and brush was stolen. It has now been restored to mark the 141st anniversary of his death and there will be a service in St Paul's today when Louise Turner, the painter's great-great grand-daughter, will lay a wreath.

white satin dress, brandishing ugly ing. In a way, we have had the last laugh," he says. Well in a way --Nuffield, like many Maxwell comknives. For improbable as it may be, the eight are traditionally-cos-turned Himalayan sherpas on a panies, had its pension funds fully looted with certain members of the sort of busman's holiday - a six hundred staff losing up to £40,000 month walking tour of Britain's hills and dales,

The walkabout by the mountain men has not been without incident thus far. They recently flew into Gatwick airport and, by nightfall, had walked as far as Petersham in Surrey where they asked for permission to set up camp for two

nights in the meadows. David Hastings, manager of Petersham Farm, immediately granted the sherpas a small patch of land. But, as they were setting up their tents a number of the sherpas were upbraided by members of the Richmond constabulary.

"The police were suspicious and thought they were illegal immi-grants," says Hastings, "In fact, although they look very fierce with long beards, they are very pleasant. My wife and I spent an amusing evening with them in their tents."

The Richmond police appear to have little recollection of the matter. "We did stop some men in a transit van but I'm not sure they were wearing tribal dress," says Chief Inspector Ashley Phillips.





NO-MAN'S LAND

Israel's prime minister is struggling in a quagmire

The dilemma facing Yitzhak Rabin over the deportation of 400 suspected terrorists to Lebanon is the dilemma that has faced the state of Israel since its fiery birth: how to reconcile international pressures with domestic imperatives. The United Nations, White House and British EC presidency have all condemned the expulsion. Yet opinion polls suggest that Mr Rabin's action is supported by 90 per cent of the Israeli electorate, appalled by the cold-blooded murder of a border guard by Hamas gunmen earlier this week.

Israel has long argued that its occasional deportation of Palestinians since 1967 has not breached the Geneva Convention prohibiting "forcible transfer as well as deportation of protected persons from occupied territories". On this occasion, the authorities protest that the banishment is only temporary, an emergency act in response to atrocities, rather than a formal deportation. This does not justify the evasion of the standard appeals procedure to get the deportees out quickly, or the unpleasant manner in which they were transported to southern Lebanon, bound and blindfolded,

The angry juridical debate over international law will continue, fuelled by the shambolic violence at the border yesterday. Politically, there is no question that the Middle East peace process has been dealt a grievous blow by Israel's sharp retaliation. Mr Rabin's acceptance of the land-for-peace formula was a milestone in the history of the region, on a par with President Sadat's ground-breaking visit to Jerusalem. The seventh round of Arab-Israeli talks in October ended with agreement between Israel and Jordan on a basic framework for peace. But these hard-won gains may now

evaporate - as the fundamentalist leaders of Hamas have intended all along.

Precisely because he is a moderate with a sincere desire for peace. Mr Rabin, who controls only 62 of the Knesser's 120 seats, cannot afford to be seen as a soft touch. Like most Israelis, he wishes his motherland to be judged by, and achieve, the standards of a Western democracy. At the same time, he rightly perceives in the continued existence of Hamas a threat to long-term negotiation and to any semblance of order in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Led from prison by Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, this five-year-old militant movement was foolishly cultivated by Yitzhak Shamir to undermine the PLO's influence and is now striving to replace it as the voice of Palestinian anger. Hamas offers its constituency an uncompromising blend of fundamentalism and unreconstructed terrorist tactics. Its immediate response to the mass deportation was to promise attacks on civilians. The Israeli prime minister's diagnosis - that the movement must be defeated as a matter of urgency - is

essentially correct. Yet his chosen method leaves much to be desired. Mr Rabin has ruled out trial by due process for these terrorist suspects, clearly the West's preferred strategy, as too cumbersome a response. But, by attempting a mass deportation, he finds himself in the even deeper quagmire of international law.

Internment, though unpalatable, would have been a far more efficient weapon and one for which numerous precedents exist in countries that have battled against terrorism. Like the deportees themselves, Mr Rabin now finds himself in his own unenviable no-man's land.

BLOCKED CHANNELS

Channel 5 is another failure for broadcasting policy

Yet again the government's reform of commercial broadcasting has descended into unseemly chaos. First there was the award of ITV franchises, which more resembled a bingo game than a finely judged auction. Then yesterday the Independent Television Commission refused to grant a licence to the only bidder for the new Channel 5 because it thought the consortium might be unable to maintain its proposed service for the required ten years.

Channel 5 Holdings had solid backing from Thames TV (with its parent, Thorn two weeks' time, the promised output is EMI) and Time Warner Entertainment, which between them had guaranteed 45 per cent of the funding. The remaining 55 per cent, conditional on the consortium winning the licence, was to come from Time Warner Inc., Pearson, Associated Newspapers and others. The ITC said it was not satisfied with these pledges. It also refused to give the consortium a 12-week grace period in which

The decision was bizarre, after all, radio stations such as Classic FM were granted a grace period. By rejecting the bid, the ITC has merely ensured that viewers will not have their choice extended at all. Had the bid been accepted, there might have been a risk of the station collapsing or being taken over, but at least new programmes would have reached the screens in the meantime.

Some choice must be better than none at all. The Thames consortium was offering something quite different from what is to be truly local, run from city stations starting in London and then Manchester. National broadcasting is the norm in Britain; what is missing is the small-scale regional and local television that has been

new ITV franchises prepare to go on air in looking threadbare from the start.

threshold inserted into the act at all: Baroness Thatcher did not want one. But already it is clear that many of the grand programming promises made by bidders at the auction will not be delivered. And the ITC can do little to punish them.

In the old days, ITV companies were desperate to impress the ITC's predecessor, the IBA, by producing high-quality programmes. Much great television was made in order to ensure that the company's franchise was renewed. Now there is no such incentive. However good an ITV's company's programmes, it can still be outbid at the next auction. Had the auction been determined on a better mix of quality and price, good

richer. British television, and its 55 million

ON BUYING PRESENTS

Christmas Past: a series on the unchanging face of the season. The first is from The Times of 19 December, 1928

The Christmas shopping season is approaching its grand climacteric. There are other shopping seasons, Spring, Summer and Autumn, and the interstices can be filled in with sales. But the Christmas season stands clearly marked off from all the rest as the one when people are buying to give. If they push a little harder and grab a little quicker, their fellow-shoppers know that they are striving not simply for themselves alone but for relations and even for friends.

Nor is this the only reason for receiving jabs with good humour. Exercise is a problem for many town dwellers and those to whom physical exercises in the bedroom or bathroom in the early morning are inexpressibly depressing will learn, if they do not already know, that there is no finer exercise in London, and certainly none cheaper, than point-to-point scrambles through a large store at this season. Not every one in the crowds is a buyer; some are only there in training to offset their coming feats at the Christmas table.

Every year the injunction to shop early is disregarded, and disregarded for a profound and humane reason. The gift that has cost the giver a real effort is the gift worth receiving, and many a homely tie or laconic calendar would be doubly valued if it bore the date and place of purchase to show that it had been bought with effort and not ordered in the coward's fashion through the post.

Often, it must be admitted, the struggle is worth more than the prize, for this is the season when shopkeepers make their boldest experiments and produce their strangest objects. There is nothing that people will not buy if it is for somebody else. In the orgy of buying there is nothing that does not stand a chance of being bought and presented by some giver who has running in his head a confused memory of the precept that one should give till it hurts. The modern scientists are at one with the medieval philosophies in teaching that nothing is ever totally destroyed. There are Christmas presents going the rounds which make this a depressing thought.

paper, "make a litter and call it Christmas".

slipper in hunt the slipper or the donkey in

the shorter card game of that name. These gifts would never have taken their first difficult step into human society but for the warm and sanguine view, of things as of people, which the Christmas season encourages every one to take. The note of strangeness which they bring into life enhances the richness of experience and the question of their ultimate disposal sharpens the wits which good living might else make dull.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Patients' role in the press campaign to save Bart's

sought to exploit suffering children.

As the mother of a child who lived.

fought and died in the cancer ward. I

can testify to the consultants' unerring

commitment to protecting the dignity

tween life and death for their child. Surely Simon Jenkins should have the

While the hospital and consultants

work hard to ensure Tomlinson's proposals are debated at a higher level, nothing will stop patients — both adults and children — contin-

uing to fight their corner with all they

Yours faithfully, PENELOPE ROMSEY, Broadlands, Romsey, Hampshire.

Sir, Why does Mr Jenkins have such a

problem with patients expressing

their views about the possible closure

of a hospital to which they happen to

wanting to support the hospital that gave her the support she needed to

make a difficult decision which ul-

timately saved the life of her baby? In

his article, Mr Jenkins criticises Mrs

Garnham, mother of two-and-a-half-

year-old Amy, for "offering" her

Mrs Gamham of course did noth-

ing of the kind; but she did describe

how the devoted care and support she received from medical staff at both Homerton and Smithfield helped

give her the courage to try to save one

of her twin daughters, after the other

She is just one of thousands of

patients who have come together to

fight the proposed closure of Bart's,

The Bart's Patients Campaign was

set up by patients, is funded by patients and is driven by patients, all

had died in the womb at 20 weeks.

daughter to the Evening Standard.

What is so "tacky" about a mother

heart to understand this?

have at their disposal.

From Mrs Miriam Ryan

be deeply attached?

December 18.

From Professor G. M. Besser, Chief Executive of the Barts NHS Trust

Sir, Simon Jenkins ("Suffer the little children", December 16) challenges St Bartholomew's to fight its corner with rational arguments. In response to overwhelming demand from our supporters, Bart's has produced a briefing document setting out our critique of the Tomlinson report and our radical strategy for taking the hospital into the 21st century.

This document contains no photographs or quotes from patients. It consists of reasoned argument and statistics, demonstrating why we believe the Barr's plan will achieve the necessary rationalisation without the huge damage and costs inherent in implementing Tomlinson's proposal.
Mr Jenkins is right to raise the issue

of how Tomlinson ties in with the internal market. Tomlinson's analysis assumes each hospital is a total monopoly, owning exclusive rights to treat patients within a given catch-ment area. The internal market was intended to be about rewarding hospitals such as Bart's which attract increasing numbers of patients and which (as demonstrated by recent figures from our regional health authority) can demonstrate a level of efficiency that is unrivalled in north-

east London, Parts of the media are clearly more concerned with human interest stories than our facts and figures. The Bart's Patients Campaign - run exclusively by patients - has been happy to cooperate with the media. I would not criticise them for that. The patient's charter encourages feedback from consumers. If ours is more positive than most i see that as a cause for congratulation rather than concern.

Yours faithfully, G. M. BESSER Chief Executive, The Barts NHS Trust, St Bartholomew's Hospital, West Smithfield, EC1. December 16.

From Lady Romsey

Sir, Simon Jenkins makes assumptions which must be refuted. The

champion, by the US federal authori-

ties, for playing Boris Spassky in what was Yugoslavia, I hope that wiser

Fischer was the outstanding chess player of his time, unmatched at his best in talent, determination and

professionalism. He has truly been of

great service both to his country and to

the world of chess at large, and he

deserves better treatment and under-

As far as the chess is concerned, this

is recognised by the present world

champion. Garry Kasparov, as can be

seen, for example, both in his gracious

and perceptive preface to Elie Agur's recent study of Fischer's approach to

chess (London, 1992) and in his

interview recently published in the Dutch magazine, New In Chess.

Attention must also be given to the

place of Yugoslavia in Fischer's

career. It was the scene of numerous

of his outstanding performances for over a decade from 1958 to 1970.

Like most, perhaps all, great artists

Fischer has been driven by a daemon

or spirit of a type little known to the rest of us. His famous and relentless

pursuit of perfection, uncomfortable

to the world at large, also shows this.

It may be, as Kasparov has said, that it would have been better for him

to have received his prize for what he

has given to chess, rather than for the

recent match ending in Belgrade. But

let us see no persecution of this brilliant if troubled genius, for such

would diminish us and not him.

Scottish orchestras

Sir, The recent decision to merge the

BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and the Scottish Opera Orchestra,

thus depriving Scotland of one of its

four orchestras ("Scottish bandwagon

to lose a wheel", Arts, December 11),

appears to have been made with the

utmost secrecy and without con-

sultation with the Scottish Arts Coun-

cil. Scottish Opera or the BBC. It

makes a mockery of the present

consultation on the future of the BBC

set out in the green paper and the

current work of the Arts Council/BBC

review body on orchestral provision.

Scotland and elsewhere may feel that

any consultation is merely lip service.

RICHARD WATSON (Chairman.

BBC Orchestras Committee),

60-62 Clapham Road, SW9.

The Musicians' Union,

Yours faithfully.

Audiences and orchestral players in

From Mr Richard Watson

JON V. PEPPER,

Dulwich, SE21.

December 16.

18 Frank Dixon Way,

Bobby Fischer case

From Dr Jon V. Pepper

views will prevail.

standing now.

Israeli actions

From the Reverend Robin Ray

each in their own way.

Sir, Whatever the possible technical Sir, Israel removes a significant basis of the proposed prosecution of number of native inhabitants from Bobby Fischer, the former world chess territory it controls (report, December 18). Is this not "ethnic cleansing"? Yours etc.,

ROBIN J. RAY, St Peter's Vicarage. 62 Eastwick Road, Taunton, Somerset. December 18.

From Mr Avi Lehrer

Sir, In the past week over 500 Pakistani citizens have been expelled from the United Arab Emirates. They had been living and working there for some years. Why no public outcry? Why no United Nations condemnation? They were expelled because they

took part in demonstrations concerning the Hindu/Muslim disputes in

From the Director of the Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding

Therefore it may seem rather academic to raise the argument of the

includes children seems to upset Mr Jenkins. Fortunately, the rest of the press feel differently. Yours sincerely, MIRIAM RYAN

their voices heard. That this group

of every child in their care. I can confirm the desperation and passion, which gave rise sponta-(Co-ordinator, Patients Committee, Save Bart's Campaign). neously to the patients' campaign, St Bartholomew's Hospital, EC1. when faced with the proposed closure of the hospital.

consultants at Bart's have never of whom are determined to make

From Ms Jacquie Dowding Parents are fighting for the place that could mean the difference be-Sir. May I, on behalf of the Bart's

Patients Campaign, offer Mr Jenkins our heartfelt thanks for his adverse article. As a result of it we have received numerous telephone calls, messages and visits from people in support of our campaign. We hope he will keep up the good work.

Yours sincerely, JACQUIE DOWDING (Member, Patients Committee, Save Bart's Campaign), St Bartholomew's Hospital, EC1. December 17.

From Mr C. Douglas Woodward

Sir, Hospital consultants are not the only people fighting for Bart's. On December 3 the City's governing body, the Court of Common Council, unanimously agreed recommendations addressed to the secretary of state for health requesting the continued existence of the hospital - not just its specialities, but the general medical facilities it provides for those who live and work in the City and those who come for treatment from Hackney and Islington and much further ifield.

I am not so much bothered by Barr's pulling out all the stops in its own defence as by Mrs Bottomley's quoted utterances on the subject. These give me the impression that she is determined to close Bart's regardless of the weight of public opinion against such a step.

Yours faithfully, C. DOUGLAS WOODWARD (Deputy, Ward of Cripplegate), Court of Common Council, Members' Room, Guildhall, EC2. December 17.

India. Many of these Pakistanis had been living in the UAE for over ten

In the last week over 700 Muslim extremists have been imprisoned without trial in Egypt (report, Decemper 14). Why no public outcry? no UN condemnation?

Of course there are obvious differences with the current Israel/ Palestinian situation. Those expelled from the UAE were not trying to overthrow the government and they were not supporters of those carrying out random acts of murder. The detainees in Egypt have been carrying out random murders (including that of a British nurse recently) and maybe that is the reason why the Western world has not condemned Egypt.

Yours faithfully. A. M. LEHRÉR, Suite 206. 38 Mount Pleasant, WC1. December 18.

Settlements policy

Sir, Mr Spencer Batiste, MP (letter, December 9), is correct to say that Mr Rabin has suspended the creation of new settlements, but he is allowing over 10,000 dwellings to be con-structed at existing settlements in the territories occupied in 1967, including the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem, which he consid ers vital to Israeli security. This will allow a potential expansion of 50,000 settlers and, if this took place in one year, it would be the second largest increase in the settler population in any year since the occupation began.

Arab nations dropping their trade boycott as a reciprocal gesture. How-

ever, boycons have been used by many countries when in dispute with other states. This is usually without approval by the United Nations and without legitimacy of this action being challenged by countries not party to the dispute, for example the United States

boycott of Cuba. Thus the boycott should surely be brought to an end as a final and just settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute which gave rise to it. It is unjust to expect the Arabs to drop these measures in exchange for a limited Israeli gesture which allows illegal building to continue and illegal settlements in place.

Yours faithfully, BERNARD MILLS, Director, Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding, The Arab-British Centre,

21 Collingham Road, SW5.

the European Parliament calling on the Commission to do so. The Commission's high-handed approach is unhelpful

Why cannot the role of the Court of Auditors be extended as well as strengthened, to act as an independent body charged with reviewing proposed Community legislation (in consultation with the European Parliament and national parliaments) and thus ensure an effective check against measures which contravene the principle of subsidiarity.

Yours faithfully. ANTHONY J. GRAY, 5 Ranelagh Avenue, SW6. December 16.

From Mr Peter J. Lord-Smith

Sir, Is it not incongruous that a British prime minister should invite the heads of 11 foreign governments on to British sovereign territory and spend two days and millions of pounds negotiating a deal to please Danish voters, whilst persistently denying British voters, to whom the whole of Europe owes its freedom, an opportunity to express their opinion.

Yours faithfully, PETER J. LORD-SMITH. Cartrel, Tredington, Tewkesbury. Gloucestershire.

Exploitation by industrial fishing

From the Chief Executive of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Sir, Fishermen and environmentalists alike are concerned by the industrial fisheries, which remove small forage fish, such as sand-eels, for conversion to fishmeal or oil. We want to see these fisheries phased out. The very foundation of the marine food chain is threatened. Sand-eels, sprats and other fish caught by industrial fishing are the primary food of edible fish and marine wildlife. Moreover, because small fish nets are used, there is a large incidental catch of the young of edible fish, such as cod and haddock.

Last month the European Commission published a report assessing the impact of industrial fisheries. The recommendations leave us little hope of any resolution. The report stated that the reduction in industrial fisheries would result in increases in a number of important fish stocks, and yet concluded that "the necessity for such changes appears at present not to be compelling". The potential impact on the marine food chain was

not even addressed. There is no clear solution as long as the political pressure is to maintain the status quo. The Danish have the biggest industrial fisheries, and no one wants to make EC membership less attractive to them.

The EC is failing in its responsibility to manage fisheries resources in European waters. Despite state-ments by the UK fisherles minister, John Gummer, that the government is opposed to industrial fishing, it has failed to take action during its presidency of the EC. The industrial fishery accounts for half of the tonnage of fish removed from Europe's seas - this is short-sighted exploitation of the bottom of the food chain, and must be phased out.

Yours faithfully, BARBARA YOUNG, Chief Executive, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, RICHARD BANKS (Chief Executive), National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations, GORDON C. CLARK, Marine Conservation Society, D. J. MACKENZIE, Atlantic Salmon Trust, GEORGE MEDLEY. World Wide Fund for Nature. C. W. POUPARD. Salmon and Trout Association. TIM CORDY.
Royal Society for Nature Conservation. PETER MELCHETT, Greenpeace UK. DAVID HUGHES HALLETT.

Destruction at sea

c/o Royal Society for the

The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire.

Protection of Birds.

December 11.

From Ms Indrani Lutchman

Sir, While my sympathy goes out to the fishermen who have been blockading Lochinver harbour (report, December 10) and those who marched through Edinburgh, I should like to point out that even though numbers of fish have increased in the North Sea this year, this cannot be treated with total optimism. Scientists are still concerned about the heavy exploitation of the fish stocks.

WWF UK (World Wide Fund for Nature) fully agrees that the common fisheries policy has not achieved its aim of conserving fish. Allocation of quotas for a single species of fish is a nonsense. The North Sea supports a mixed community of fish so that the present policy has resulted in the destruction of young fish and species that have to be thrown back.

WWF UK believes the only answer is an overall reduction in the size of EC fleets and a vessel licensing scheme to reduce fishing capacity. But this must go hand in hand with a realistic financial incentive to help fishermen who will be losing their livelihoods.

Yours faithfully, INDRANI LUTCHMAN (Fisheries Officer). WWF UK (World Wide Fund for Nature). Panda House, Weyside Park, Godalming, Surrey. December 11.

Drivers who smoke

From Mr Peter Russell

Sir. Dr R. Scott Russell (letter, December 15) pleads for the pipesmoker to be given special consideration for reductions in motoring insurance. No doubt he gained considerable solace and comfort from his briar dummy for over 50 years of driving.

But is he aware that many professional driving instructors, who teach from their own practical experience, often claim the only danger on the roads greater than the man puffing his pipe at the wheel is the man who is smoking a pipe and

wearing a hat? All too often he is a founder member of that most exclusive of motoring clubs, the Middle Lane Owners Society.

Yours faithfully, PETER RUSSELL (General Secretary). Driving Instructors Association. Safety House, Beddington Farm Road, Croydon, Surrey. December 15.

to prove the money was in place. already on air. Much of its output was going such a success in north America. The Broadcasting Act was never a good law, but it looks increasingly flawed as its provisions come into force. The act could have stipulated that Channel 5 be made up of local, city stations, but it did not. As the

It was hard enough to get a quality

programmes would have been protected.

The end result of the Broadcasting Act is that the Treasury is a paltry £250 million the

viewers, are vastly the poorer.

It is a difficulty for traders that, just when industry is organized to supply objects of all kinds in great numbers quickly, aesthetic fashions and difficulties about service should favour a small house with very little in it. Only Victorian houses can cope with the many gifts which the shopmen are determined shall be bought. There are tidy housewives, givers themselves, who say that they do not mind strange objects coming into the house and welcome their husbands' friends but who hate a mess. For them the Christmas presents are at their worst when they strip in public and, slipping string and

It is undoubtedly true that Christmas and the plan of making everybody give every one else a present is good for trade. Far more is bought this way than would be bought if people got what they wanted for themselves instead of getting what their relations think they ought to like or find it amusing to give them. There are Christmas presents which began as Christmas presents and can never hope to be anything else. They pass hurriedly and furtively from hand to hand like the

Weekend Money letters, page 23

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

After Edinburgh From Mr Anthony J. Gray

Sir. Woodrow Wyatt's vision of a headlong rush towards enlargement of the Community is on the agenda ("John Major pulls it off", December 12). However, his suggestion that this should be accompanied by a weakening of the powers of the European Parliament, confining it to a "harmless talking shop", is perverse. The EC desperately needs to strengthen the democratic legitimacy and public accountability of its institutions.

If the political will is there, a solution is at hand: I refer to the role of the Court of Auditors. The Treaty of European Union makes a specific declaration to enhance the effectiveness of the work of the Court of Auditors and this should now be a matter of priority. The need for a body of persons independent of the Commission, the Council or member state governments, specifically charged with the task of reviewing the expenditure and management of Com-

munity programmes, is well accepted. The problem is that the Court of Auditors as an institution does not carry enough clout to ensure that its recommendations are implemented by the Commission, even in the case where a resolution has been passed by



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHĀM PALACE December 18: The Princess Royal this morning opened the new factory and office for Matthew Algie and Company Limited, 16
Lawmoor Road, and was received
by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenaur
for the City of Glasgow (Mr Robert
Innes, the Rr Hon the Lord Provoso.

Provosti,
Her Royal Highness, Patron,
Citizens' Advice Scodand, visited
Glasgow Central Citizens' Advice
Bureau, Hellenic House, 87 Bath

The Princess Royal this after-noon visited DAKS-Simpson Lim-ited, Industrial Estate, Larkhall and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Lanarkshire (Mr Hutchinson Sneddon).

Her Royal Highness, Patron, College of Occupational Therapists, afterwards opened the Occupational Therapy Department, the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Yorkhill, Glasgow. Mrs David Bowes-Lyon was in

CLARENCE HOUSE December 17: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother today honoured the Chief of the General Staff (General Sir Peter Inge) and the Executive Committee of the

Army Board with her presence at luncheon at St John's Wood Bar-racks. Dame Frances Campbell-Preston and Sir Martin Gilliat KENSINGTON PALACE

December 18: The Prince of Wales, Colonel, Welsh Guards, this morning received Brigadier
John Rickett. His Royal Highness this after-noon visited Gloucestershire and

was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Gloucestershire (Mr Henry Elwes). The Prince of Wales visited the Coswold Care Hospice, Longfield, Burleigh, Stroud. His Royal High-ness. Patron. Sue Ryder Home, opened the new Day Centre at the

Sue Ryder Home, Leckhampton Court, Church Road, Leck-hampton, Cheltenham Lieutenant Commander Robert Fraser, RN, was in attendance. KENSINGTON PALACE

December 18: The Princess Margaret Countess of Snowdon, President, The Royal Ballet, this afternoon attended the Kenneth MacMillan Choreographic Competition at the Royal Ballet School, White Lodge, Richmond Park.

Mrs. Jane Stevens was in

The Sovereign's Parade

The Duchess of Kent represented The Queen at the Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst on December

The following have been granted commissions in the regiments and corps shown, having successfully completed Standard Military Course no 921. The Sword of Honour was won by Senior Under Officer S.G. Higgens, and The Queen's Medal was won by Officer Cadet D.E.

Was won by Officer Cadet D.E. Hall.

DCJ Amida, AAC. JF AMY, U.; NR AUTISTRONG, RA: KI. Bonnister, 9/12 L. AC. Barnard, EMPE & Berron, RCT. H. Bent, 17/21 L. SJ. Blakebrough, 17/21 L. RM Blunt, RE: AC Boreham, RANG. IEO Bowers, RCT. J Boyd PARA: AJ Broad BCT; MEJ Burton, RCT: PJ Carle, RA: GO Carnegle-Brown, RCT: PJ Carle, RE: SA Carnegle-Brown, RCT: PJ Carle, RE: SC GS Cusyma, PWILL W. Coblum, K. Hidd: AH Centen, RA: PD Cotton, RAOC, PJS Cripps, Schlörder, LH Cullen, R. Signals; JJ Daviss, RCT: JW Dohery, PARA: EJ Daniol, RPC: TD Edmunds-McClura, RE: C. Ellisdon, RE: BRB Essenhigh, RA: JS Etheringon, RDG: CMP Fart, RA: MJ Finch, RIT: ME Fishbeck, RA: CIT Francke, PWKR: CMR Gedin, REME: DE Hall. RIME: WHALL REME: DE HALL RIME: AS Sprais: SM Hogben, REME: JD HOIMAN, RE: SG HODD, RA: AM Hughes, Kings: SAM Ingham, RA: JB Innes, Cordones CA SJ James, PWILL RIJ JAWIL, ACC, AIR ARFary, SG: DE Institus, RCT, ND Innit, RCT: MA Runton, RCA-RT LEBBOURS, WG: PMJ Lawis REME: LUPLINGSN, 17/21 L; GOC Lieweilly, RWF: DR Lodge, AGC (ETSK N I Jynch, RFF TN Masoon, RA: AR Masters, RCT: JCW Miswedsky, RA: ML Maymand, D and D JMB McBrism, IG: P McNabols, CTDM MeLley, R Angilan: P McNabols, CTDM MeLley, R Angilan: P McNabols, CTDM Melley, RA: Angilan: P McNabols, CTDM McLey, RA: Angilan: P McNabols, CTDM Melley, RA: Angilan: P McNabo

RRF: JC Medley AGC (SPS): SI. Medlor. RAOC. RN Mosby. R Signals: DV Mulholland, RAOC. RJ Noble, FARA; AE HOTBOOM. J GR: DN O'DTICH. EIME SI. PACKER. QUG: DR PARIAS. QUG: DR PARIAS. QUG: DR PARIAS. QUG: DR PARIAS. TIPE PERIDETON-PISOTI. BCT: RR PHILIPSON-SLOW. RHG/ID: CIR PHILIPSON-SLOW. RHG/ID: CIR PHILIPSON-SLOW. RHG/ID: CIR PHILIPSON-SLOW. RHG/ID: CIR PHILIPSON ROWARDS. PRIVE PD PRIMER. PEARLE MW FOWARDS. REIGHT. POPULSER. AND RICHARDS. RCT: NJ RICHARDS. REIGHT. GOTGLOS: O'IR DESTRUCTION OF THE PRIVE PRIVE. RESENT. SIZE AGC (RMF): NRO Shenow. RS Signals. AGC (RMF): NRO Shenow. RS Signals. AGC (RMF): NRO Shenow. RS Signals. REIGHT. SIZE NAME. REIGHT. RESENT. REIGHT. RM MCK. STOKOG. RS SIGNALS: CORG. SIGNALS. REIGHT. RIGHT. RM CRIM: JE SHIMM. RS IGHAIS. MILI TRYON. RCT: CA Thomas, A and Sh!: SF Thomas, RA: JH Thompson. AGC (SPS): GN Thomas, RA: JH Thompson. AGC (SPS): GN Thomas, RA: JH Thompson. AGC (SPS): GN Thomas, RA: JH Thompson. RG: NAME. RAOC. RIF TYPE, RA: ACC TURTAIL, D AND D: CM Violet. RE: (PCS): CD Walker, RAOC. RIF YEOTHRAIS. RAOC. RIF YEOTHRAIS. RAOC. REI YEOTHRAIS. RAOC.

The following overseas cadets also passed out with a view to being commissioned in the armed forces of their countries. The Overseas Cane was won by SUO T. Vanua.

Cane was won by SUO T. Vanua. Sheikh Taisi Mohammed Ai Khalifa. Bahrain: Sheikh Saiman Khalifa. Bahrain: Sheikh Saiman Khalifa ai Khalifa. Bahrain: David Nehemish Jones, Beltze: Tornasi Vanua, Fiji: Gaber Nagy, Hungary: Orari Omar Chin. Jamaios: Sheikh Thamer Jaher Al Sahah. Kuwait; Mohammed Adnan Bin Shadie, Malaysia: Faziliah Bin Ibrahim, Malaysia: Ernarusei Malila. Maria: Ferma Mesimona Orandia. Namibis: Ferma Mesimona Tyandia. Namibis: Gabes Linus. Namibis: Sheikh Randia. Sheikh Jang Thaga. Nepal: Subash Jung Thaga. Nepal: Sesa Ali Ai Ghessani. Oranu R. Annyi; Rane Pertival II. Entiquez, Fullipolnes: Sheikh Fanad Bin Hammed Ai Thani. Qatar: Poh Boon Hock. Singapore: Meedage Don Manjula Sarathchandra, Sri Lanka: Apichal Pinyochip. Thaliand: Wurdchal Khanung-idikong, Thaliand: Eisen Bin Ismail Al Pahimi. UAE (Abu Dhabi; Ali Saeed Mattar Ai Nayadi, UAE (GHQ: Rungano Jarawaza. Zimbahwa.

Birthdays

TODAY: Sir Antony Buck, QC. former MP, 64; Mr Ross Buckland, chief executive, Unigate, 50: Mr Timothy Eggar, MP, 41; Dame Catherine Hall, former general secretary, Royal College of Nursing, 70: Brigadier L.J. Harris, carnographer, 32; Sir Brian HIII, chairman, Higgs and HIII, 60; Mr Leonard Hirsch, violinist. 90; Mr Syd Little, comedian, 50; Sir William Murrie, civil servant, 89; the Marquess of Queensberry, 63; Count Edward Raczynski. former president, Polish govern-ment-in-exile, 101; Sir David Rowe-Ham, former Lord Mayor of London, 57; Sir John Tilney, former MP, 85; Lord Weir, 61.

TOMORROW: Mr Bill Abbott.

governor, Pentonville Prison, 51; Miss Jenny Agutter, actress, 40; Mr Michael Beaumont, Seigneur of Sark, 65: Lord Brabazon of Tara, 46; Mr Simon Channing, chairman, London Philharmonic, 32; Sir George Coldstream, QC, 85; Mr Makoim Cooper, marksman, 45; Mr Peter Cundell, racehorse trainer, 44; the Earl of Harrowby, 70; Mrs Ros Hepple-white, former national director, MIND, 40; Lord Howe of Aberavon, QC, 66; Miss Rachel Trickett, former principal. St Hugh's College. Oxford, 69: Sir Dick White, diplomat, 86; Mr John Whitney, former directorgeneral, IBA, 62; Mr John Wilkins, editor, The Tablet, 56.



If the hat fits: Kathryn Shannon, 21, dons her uniform before starting work as a doorperson at the Rembrandt Hotel, Knightsbridge. She is believed to be the first female doorperson in London

University news

Oxford Oriel

Elected to an Honorary Fellowship: Sir Geoffrey Wilson. Newcastle Appointments

Dr Tom Strachan to the Professorship of Human Molecular Genesics from January 1. Dr William Clegg, Reader in Chemical Crystallography in the Department of Chemistry, ap-pointed to a Personal Professor-

ship in Structural Crystallography. Dr John Derry, promoted to a Personal Professorship in Modern Grant Hearn, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Marine Technology, to a Personal Professorship

Mr David Mendelow to a Personal Professorship io Dr Barry E. Argent, senior lecturer in the Department of Physiological

Sciences, to a personal readership in Cellular Physiology.

Dr Euan K Cameron, lecturer in the Department of History, to a personal readership in Reformation History. Dr Howard Griffiths, lecturer in

the Department of Agricultural and Environmental Science, to a personal readership in Plant Dr Barry H Hirst, senior lecturer

in the Department of Physiological Sciences, to a personal readership in Cellular Physiology.

Anniversaries

Today BIRTHS: William Edward Parry, Arctic explorer, Bath, 1790; Sir Ralph Richardson, actor, Chelten-ham, 1902; Leonid Brezhnev, President of the Soviet Umon 1977-82, Dneprodzershinsk, Ukraine, 1906: Edith Plaf, singer. Paris, 1915.

DEATHS: Vitus Bering, navl-gator, Bering Island, 1741; Emily Brontë, poet and novelist, Haw-orth, Yorkshire, 1848; Joseph Mallord William Turner, painter, London 1951; Lorie Listermaner. London, 1851: Louis Untermeyer, writer, 1977.

Henry II became King of England, 1154. Britain and China signed an agreement for the return in 1997 of Hong Kong to China, 1984. BIRTHS: Thomas Graham, chemist, Glasgow, 1805; Sir Robert Menzies, prime minister of Australia 1939-41 and 1949-66, Jeparit, Victoria, 1894; George, Duke of Kent, Sandringham House, Norfolk, 1902.

DEATHS: Ambroise Paré, sur-geon, Paris, 1590; Erich von Ludendorff, German World War I general, Munich, 1937; John Steinbeck, novelist, Nobel laureate 1962, New York, 1968; Admiral Luis Carrem Blanco, Prime Min-Luis Carrero Blanco, Prime Minister of Spain 1973, assassinated Madrid, 1973; Artur Rubinstein. pianist, Geneva, 1982. Louis Napoleon Bonaparte was proclaimed President of France, 1848.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P.N. Barklen and Miss H.J.E. Graham

The engagement is announced between Philip Noel, third son of Mr and Mrs Thomas Barklem, of Urchfont, Wittshire, and Henrietta Jane Evangeline, youngest daughter of Mr Colin Graham, of Kensington, London, and Mrs Louise Schweitzer, of Chelsea.

Mr J.R. Fursman and Miss E.J. MacAnlay The engagement is announced in Zimbabwe between John Richard, only son of Mr and Mrs Richard J. Pursman, of Alit na Cardoch, Aviemore, and Emma Jane, only

daughter of the late Water G.
MacAulsy and of Mrs Iaim
Galloway, of Victoria Square,
Stirling. Mr B. Hudson and Miss L. van Gils The engagement is announced between Brian Hudson, of Fife

Road, Richmond Park, and Leonora van Gils, of Abingdon Villas, Kensington. Mr P. Johnson and Dr S.J. Fiske The engagement is announced between Peter, eldest son of the

Rev G.E. and Mrs Johnson, of North Duffield, Yorkshire, and Suzannah, daughter of Mr and Mrs N.J. Fiske, of Burstall,

MrJ.L.G. O'Bries and Miss P.M. Raison The engagement is announced between James, elder son of the Hon MJ and Mrs O'Brien, of Thursley, Surrey, and Patricia, elder daughter of Mr Patrick Raison, of Bonas, France, and Mrs Françoise Raison, of Broadway,

Mr D.J. Regent and Min P.C. Gibs The engagement is announced between Dominic, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Regan, of Ospringe, Kent, and Phillipa, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Gibson, of Stonehill Green Farm, Wilmington, Kent.

MrJ.P. Renard

and Miss C.J. New The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Renard, of Shipley, West Yorkshire, and Caroline, daughter of Mrs Susan New and the late Mr John New, of London.

Dr M.L. Slevin and Miss N.J. Harris

The engagement is announced between Maurice, eldest son of Mr and Mrs David Slevin, of Cape Town, and Nicola, daughter of Mr Clifford Harris, of Teulada, Spain. and Mrs Denise Harris, O Holland Park, London.

4

Dr J.H. Visiek and Dr K.A. Husk

The engagement is announced between Dr James Hedley Visick, of Norwich, son of the late Mr and Mrs A. Hedley Visick, of York, and Dr Kirsty Anne Hussk, of Norwich, daughter of Captain and Mrs R.J. Hussk, of Hatfield Broad Oak,

Mr D.A. Wallace and Miss LM. Hayward

The engagement is announced between Donald, only son of Mr and Mrs J.A. Wallace, of Bourne, Lincolnshire, and Ingrid, younger daughter of Mrs G. Hayward, of Henlow, Bedfordshire, and Mr C.F.B. Hayward, of Cardiff.

Appointments

Mr Justice Scott Baker to be transferred from the Family Di-vision of the High Court to the Queen's Bench Division from January 1, 1993.

The Marquess of Douro to join the Council of the Royal College of Art. Dr lain Elliot to be Director of the Britain-Russia Centre from May 1.

Royal engagement

TOMORROW: The Princes of Wales, as Patron of the National Children's Orchestra, will attend a concert at Queen Elizabeth Hall at 7.40. Marriage

Mr J.T. Savino and Miss R.E. Duzdous

The marriage took place on December 18 in New York of John, son of Mr and Mrs Raphael Savino, of Florids, to Rachel, daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Peter Dunican.

Conversazione

Institute of Marine Engineers Rear-Admiral M.A. Vallis, President of the Institute of Marine Engineers, and Mrs Vallis were the hosts at the armual conversazione held yesterday at Grosvenor House.

Church services tomorrow

Fourth Sunday in Advent

in Hydrodynamics.

FOURTH Sunday in Advent

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL Chyd: 11

Choral Euch, Jackson in G. There is no
rose Gouberd, Rev Paul Kinsey. 3.30

Choral E. Sunnsion in G. Responses

(Rerisal), Advent Antiphon to Oriense,

LESSE uns trolocism Ottendeissolni.

EUDHINGHORMAN CATHEDRAL: 11 Christ

Euch. Herwood in A fiel. Gebrie's

Message (arr Peternan). Ave Maria

Crassoral. The Propost 4 Choral E.

Responses (Sanders), Ballstow in D 60

Oriens). Ave maris stella (Monteverdi), Rev

DY Marier Pelmer.

EANTER-BURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. 230

M; 11 Sung Euch. Miss S. Jonnois de Deo

CHAVINI, Advan lay y-bound (Ord), Rev

DY C. A. Levis: 3.15 E. Responses

M; I i Sung Euch, Missa S. Joannis de Deo (Haydri). Adroan lay y-bound (1074). Rev Dy C & Lewig, 1074 [I solemn and Stanford in G. Ersunge Domitte (Byrdt: 6.30 Sermon & Compliane. Earl H & De Busmanut.

CARLISLE CATHEURAL: 10.30 Sange Euch, Posing Prejude (Proveits, Ureland in G. A malden most gentle (Carren, Chorni Song & Pagne (Wester), Carron Res Chapman; 3.30 Pertival of Nine Lessons and Carolis 6.30 Night Prayers. Mr Lessie Boumphrey.

CHILMSFORD CATHEURAL: 7.30 MF, 8 HCC 9.30 Parish Communion. Canomi Paul Brett: 11.15 Sang Euch, Advent Prose. Missa Simplicius, Ave Maris, Canon David Knight, 6 Choral E, Responses (Montey). Caudicies (Dyson in F. Distit Maria (Haster). The Vice Provost.

CHESTER CATHEURAL: 7.45 Litzny, 3 HC. 10 Choral M, Benedicite (Purceti in B flack). Collegium Regule (Howettis, Rejoler in the Lord (Janon), 3.30 A Chasser Card Service, 6.30 E.5, Culnon Cristopher Biddiel.

Brottell.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP. 8 HC.
10.30 Cuthetral Euch. Byrd &S. Ave Maria
Stravinetry, Magnillox in G Stanford.
Canon Michael Sadgrove. 5.30 E.
Ave Maria (Stravinsky), Responses
(Smith), Sansord in C, Hymn to the

Virgin (Britten),
Busham, Catherbaal, B. H.C. 10.15 M.
Benedicte in B flat (Sumsion), Benedictus
in B flat (Sumford), Rejoice in the Lord
alver (Furcell), Canon Coopier 11 Jul H.C.
Missa orbis factor, Rorace coets desuper
(Byrd), Canon Hodgers 2.30 E. Antiphon
(O briefin), Purrell in G minor, Rejoice in
the Lord alway: 4.30 Ligniting of the
Christoms Tree and Stealing of the Crity.
ELY CATHEDBAL: 8.15 HC. 10.30 Sung
Eludi, Missa lor3 virtues (Byrd). There is no
rose (Anon), Regina Coell (White). The
Priceptor: 3.45 E. Preces (Rose), Antiphon
(O Ordens), Cartificias (Minor), Salve Virgo
Mater (Flys). ST GENERAL SOURCE

6per LM (Sast: 8, 10 (Children's), 6 LM; 1130 HM, Pr Michael Jones: 4 Parish Advent Carol Bervice. LDICESTER CATMEDIAL: IF HC: 9A5 HI 10.30 Sung Euch, Prelude on Gones Sohn is konumen Hachl, Setting (Darke in P. The angel Gabriel from heaven came sarr. Pettmanl, Sottle in B flat (Lefebur-Web), The Chancellor. 4 Choral B. Intonedo Quint Toul Scherert, Responses (Reading), Setting (Sumston in Gi, Christ, whose gloy Illis the sides (Darke), Toccata in F (Widor).

In F (Widor).

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 Litany; 8 & 12.30 HC. 9.30 Sung Euch. A New People's Mass (Murrsy). The Dean: 11.15 M. The Subdean: 2 Carol Service: 3.45 E. 10 Griens.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. 10.30 Sung Euch. Sanford in 8 flat. The Deam in G (Vaughari Williams). Haste the. 0 God flatient. Rev Peter Holliday; 3.30 E. Responses (Rosei, Antiphon to Orient, Collection Resale (Wood). Exce concider

Handi.

ET PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: E HC 1030 M.
Responses Heightoni, Benedicie (Ashfeid
in F), Benedicus (Stanford in C). Rev John
Halliburion: 1130 HC. Mass for four
voices (Byrd). Rorate coeli (Byrd): 3,15 E.
Dyson in F, Partasta on Caristmas Carols
(Vaughan Williamsa, Preinde & Futpoe in C

Bacht 6.30 Organ Recital,
ST PAINTS CATHEIDEAL Decade: \$ HC.
94.0 Sung COMMUNICITY. Thomas Buch.
There is no rose Goubers, The Provose
6.30 Catheideal Card Service.

ROCHISTER CATHEIDEAL \$ HC. 945 Mc.
10.30 S Buch, Missa Brevis (Walton),
Canon Richard Less: 3.15 E, 6.30
Rochester Chamber Choir Carol Service.
(Tickets at door).

SOUTHWARK CATHEIDEAL 9 HC. 13
Buch, five part mass Glyrift, A specifies
rose (Howells), Hymn to the Virgin
(Britant), Canon Roy White: 3 Catheideal
Carol Service.

WELLS CATHEIDEAL: 8 HC. 9.45 Suns

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 Sung Euch, The Assunctation, Missa O cardina myserium (Victoria). Let thy merciful cars (Mudd), Rev P de N Lucas II 3.0 M. Bernedict Stanford in A). Ne dimets Maria (Victoria). 3 E. The Second Service (Gibbors), Tibls is the record of John (Gibbors), Tibls and Prope, Prob R M WESTMINGTER ABSET: 5 HC 10 M.

WESTMINISTER ABSET: 8 HC 10 M. Percell Benedice. Ava Maria (Persons), Miss Angela Thip; 11.15 Abbey Such, Miss Angela Thip; 11.15 Abbey Such, Missa Andio Christi (Howells); Hymn on the Mother of God (Tawmen). Carol Almard. Benediction of God. See See See Maria Maria. Westminister Cattledral. Missa Ave maris sella (Victoria). Ava Maria (Bruckner). Visitate (Byrd). Ach. bielb bell uns (Bach). 10 MP. 2.30 Organ rectas: 130 Solemn Vespet with Advest Carols. YORK MONSTER: 8 & 8.5 HC 10 Sung. Each. Mass for four voices (Byrd). Carols. John Young: 11.30 M. Responses (Rosel. Faundourion (Moorel. 4 E. Wood in F. This is the record of John Gibbons, Very Rey John Soundsgare; 7 S. Michael-He-Bethy Carol Service.

THE CHAPPEL BOYAL, St. James's Palace.

alway (Purosil), Rev J G Hastiam.
QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE RAYOF, WC2:
11 SETVICE OF LEBOTS and CUTOS.
BITMAL NAVAL COLLEGE CRAPTL.
GREENWICH, SSIC: 10.310 Sung Soch.
People Look East, Redoice in the Lord
alway (Redford). The Chaptain.
GUARDS CHAPEL, Weilbrigton Barracks,
SWI 11 Pestival of Lemons and Carolic 12
HC 5 Penthal of Lemons and Carolic 12
HC 6 Penthal of Lemons and Carolic 12
HC 6 Penthal of Lemons and Carolic 12
HC 6 Penthal of Lemons and Carolic 12
HC 7 Benedictus (Wilson Burston in B
field, Benedictus (Wilson Burston in B
field, Benedictus (Wilson Burston in B
field, Benedictus (Wilson Burston)
This is the record of John (Gibbons): 3.30
Pestival of Nine Lessons and Carolic
Jaconic on by alcine only and to be seared

Admission by scales with the Mr. S & ALL SAINTS, Margarot Street, W1: S & H15 Take 11 HM. Misses less Consisser (Palestrana), Ave Maria (Stavinsky), Rev Camon H M Wybrew; 6 E & B, The Short Sarvice (Cibboas), Ave Maria (Palestrina), REV CL GERDE.

ALL SQUILS, LANGEREN PROG. WI: 11 Saw inho Cacit. 6.30 Dr. Jenn Stort.

GIRDSYENGE CHAPTEL. South Andley Street, WI: 11 Sung Euke. Le try Krife (Taverner). Western Wind Masi (Taverner). Western Wind Masi (Taverner). Ave Maria Parsona).

ST BARTHOLONEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, SCI: 9 RC, 11 M & HC. Short Service (Gibbons). Ne timess Maria (Victoria). The Redoi: 6.30 Pastival of None Lessons and Carols.

ST BEIDES, Pleas Street. EON: 11 Chural M & Loch. Responses (Tautium). Smith Maria (Maria Carol).

ST SEIDES, Pleas Street. EON: 11 Chural M & Loch. Responses (Tautium). Smith Maria (Maria Carol).

ST CLEMENT DAVIGE: 9 HC, (1 Nine Lessons and Carols.

ST CLEMENT DAVIGE: 9 HC, (1 Nine Lessons and Carols.

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ST CLEMENT DAVIGE: 9 HC, (1 Nine Lessons and Carols.

FOR SALE

TICKETS

FOR SALE

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FOOD & WINE

SHAN CHOISE SON THE SHE SHE

FT LURE'S, Chehen. SW3: 8 & 17.18 HC: 10.30 Sung Buch, Mass (Whitlock in O), Noel Nunveiri (ny. Judson), Les enfuris de Dieset (Massilees), Nov 8 Adand; 6-30. Circle.

87 indARTE, Regaints Park Ed., NWI: F EG.

10 Family C. 11 Sung Euch & Holy
Baptism. Wood in K. And the glary
(Randel). Rev Town Desonshire Jones.

3.30 Carols.

ST MANGARETS. Westminister. FWI: 11

Sung Roch. Missa Scryls (Palestring).

Advers ampliann (D Ordens). And I saw a
beev heaven family.

Circuis.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE FIELDS, WCa: 8 RC; 9.45 Ench. The Saint Murrin's Service firinged, Lord, let me know mine end (Dwenel, Rev Stephen Roberts: 11.30 Visitors to London Service, Response (emits of Durham). Here is the little correlative to London Pridamore: 12.30 RC. 2.45 Chinese Service, Rev Gilbert Lie: 5.30 RS. Rev Martin Henrycod.

NY MART L Beurns Street, RW: 9/441, V. LAC: 11 HDL. Missa brevis Palescrinal, Nr. Cordon Ridd: 8 Solumn E a B ST MARTIEBONE, Marylebone Road, WI: 8 HC. 11 Choral Euch, Missa O Magnum Mysterium (Vistoria), Magnifica (Gibbona), Rev Richard McLaren; 9.10 Penal Missa Corpolal Missa Carolis by Candidight.

Panes lingus (Insquin), Rev Fr Ashley Buch 6.30 Service of Lessons and Carols. 87 STR-PHINN'S, Oloucester Road, 5W7: 8 4-9 LM; 11 SM, Missa Brevis (Mayas Selbert, 1 sing of a Malden (Berkeley), Salve Regions (Prolated), Fr Cultstopher Colvect S Advant Quiet (Evensong, Fr John

by Candlelight.

ST MUCHAEL'S, Combill, ECS: 11 Choral
Euch, Sething (Dutie in A minor), Lo, in
the time appointed (William); 3.13 Peacwal
of Nine Lessons and Carols.

ST PARIL'S, William Frace, FW: 2 of WC:
11 Soleron Euch, Missa Con me I'm did.
(Lataus), Laudate Paeri (Monteverdi), The
secret Sower (Trad), Rev Christophar
Courteald.

GIFTS

ENOVA COURT CHUNCH OF SCUT-LAND. Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15 New Stanley Flood: 6.30 Service of Nize Lessons and Carols. 11 Western Wind Mars (Tavenner), Sea concipies (Hand), Ave verum (Verdonch, Hand), Ave verum (Verdonch, Hand), Ave verum (Verdonch, Hand), Ave verum (Verdonch, Hand), Bassell, 4-15, 6-15 LM; if HAL Missu in Adventu Haydin), Seco Complete Gland), Drakemm mysterites (Vinotia), That Grand THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Missa Ave Maris Stella (Victoria), Rose Dominus veries (Victoria), 1230, 430, 7: 330 V & B. Rozene Casi George (Principle).

Compart (Principle).

Compart (Principle).

Compart (Principle).

Compart (Principle). AMERICAN CHURCH IN LONDON, Tottenham Court Rd, W1: 9.45 Sunday School: 11 Worship, Rev J Schoolett. ST ANNE AND ST ACRES Luxiesem, Oresham St. ECz: 11 Choral HC, Rev Dr Scott S Ichert 7 Bach Vespest, Cantain No.1478 Herz und Mund und Thi mid-Leben (Sach), Volln Coucero to A unitor (Bach), Wolln Coucero to A unitor (Bach), Wolln Cyncro to A unitor (Bach), Wolln Cyncro to A unitor (Bach), Woll Chora Chempton (Bach), Wore Adventistiestieferhölis (Johann Walter), Very Rev Colin Semper. WESLET'S CHAPEL Cry limit, ECT: 9.10 MS Radio 4 Broadcase, Rev Dr Colin M. Morris; 1] Carol & Christingie. WESTMINSTER CENTEAL MALL Methodist, SWI: 6.30 Gargeons Christingle Choir, candles, cardin 7.45 cardin a minor oler.

TEL: 071 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

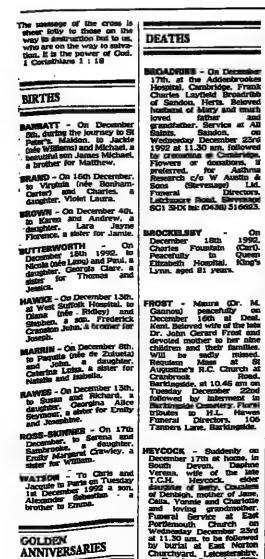
SERVICES

FAX: 071 481 9313

TUDENT

RENTALS

ANNOUNCEMENTS



GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

TOYE - Les and Peg 80 years of internecine warfare and still no armistics. Commiser-ations to Finchem. Norfolic.

1. 11 Page 14 - 16

ny buriat at East rectum Churchyard, Leicesterabire, on Tuesday December 25th at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only piecse, donations if desired to R.N.L. c/o J & G Petrott. Kingsbridge, Devom. tel: (0548) 852302.

DEATHS 17th, at the Addenbrookes Hospital. Cambridge. Frank Charles Layfield Broadribo of Sandon. Herts. Beloved husband of Mary and much loved father and grandfather. Service at All Saints. Sandon. on Wednesday December 23rd 1992 at 11.30 am. followed by craminan Committee Committee for the Committee Hill. - On December 18th, peacefully at home, Walter Adam (Jummy) O.B.E.: F.R.I.C.S., aged 86. Much loved husband, father, grandfather and grandfather funeral at St. Many's Church, Hitchin. Wednesday December 23rd at 12 noon. No flowers, a desired, cheques in layour of Garden House Hospics, Letchworth. c/o Chenery Funeral Service, 44 Bedford fixed, Filichin, SGS 2TV, tai: (MC) 454376. NEBSHAW - On December 16th 1992, in a hospice. David Charles aged 55 years of Southport dearly loved by all his family and friends. Funeral Service on Monday December 21th - 1 Puntral Service on Monday December 21st at Liverpool Road Methodist Church, Southport at 12.15 pm followed by cremation at Southport Cremation at Southport Cremation at Southport Cremation in Committee to Committee the Committee of M.J. Brookfield Puneral Director: 254 Liverpool Road, Southport, enguiries set. (07/04) 550011. ROFBRY - Nat Kotsky, peacefully in Natrobi Hospital, on December 14th, the day before his 54th his many bears to saved of Cynths. Anna, Jesse and Grassne. BROCKELSBY - On December 18th 1992. (Carl). Peacefully in Carl). Peacefully in Ring's Lynn, aged 81 years. MacGREGOR - W.G. BHI
MacGregor F.R.C.S.
F.R.C.O.G. 18th December.
Born Melbourns 1919.
Consultant and Teacher
Hammersmith Hospital.
Loved and respected by June
and English and Australian
family and colleagues
workiwide. Service Denham
Perish Church 2 pm Menday
December 21st. Donalions in
lieu of floral bribuses to the
institute of Cancer Research.
17a Opsiow Gdms, SW7 3AL. FROST - Maura (Or. M. Gannon) peacefully on December 16th at Deal. Kent. Beloved wife of the late Dr. John Gerard Frost and devoted mother to her nine children and their families. Will be sadly missed. Reculem Mass at St Augustine's R.C. Caurch at Cranbrook Rocal. Augustine's N.C. Church at Cranbrook at 10.45 arm on Tuesday December 22nd followed by Interment in Earthmaste Caseter, Floributes to H.L. Hawes Funeral Directors, 106 Tanners Lane, Barkingside.

1992. pracefully at home in Hamoura. End Domaid and 92 years. Dam and beloved grandfather of Dale. Tracy and David. Futerest Service at The Downs Crematorium. Bear Rood. Brighton, on Wednesday December 23rd at 12 noon. No novers by request but donations if desired for The Chest, Heart and Stroke Association may be sent to Frank Davay & Co., 31 High Street. Hurstniespeed, West Sussec. ENG 91T bet. (0273) 832179. STEWART - On December 16th 1992, at home, Reginald Huston Gleggle, aged 79 years. Darring husband and compassion of Joan. Service at the Purba Church of St. Mary. Breamore, on Tuesday December 22nd at 2.45 pm followed by private cremation. Flowers c/o J & W Shering. 15 Provest Street. Fordingbridge. SP6 1AY, tet: 04289 653019. MecCOMBE - Alam Jobs.
peacefully in hespital egad
66 years, on 17th December.
Sadly missed by Betty and
sons Michael, Peter, Timothy
and families. Fumeral 2 pm
Wednesday 25rd December
at St John the Baptis.
Bethwick, Bath. Family
flowers only please but
donations on The British
Heart Foundation. PRYOR - On December 18th at home Namey Mary, widow of Norman Selvyn. Thanks-siving Service and turned or astes on Saturday January 2nd 1933, 8t Mary's Church. Manaden at 11 30 am. Donations, if desired, made payable to Arthritis Research c/o W.H. Daniel Robinson & Sons Ltd., 79-81 South Street, Eulop's Stortford, let: (0279) 656477. IN MEMORIAM -

CANCARITE - Deer. Alvests in our thoughts. Jan. Jimmy. in our thoughts. . Bertle and Lucy.

TRUSTEE ACTS WANTED

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant in 527 of the TRUSTEE Act. 1928 had not person believing a CLASS against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to small pursuant to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased of the date wheth date the estate of the wheth date will be described will be described will be described will be described by the pursuant representatives among the persons which they been addressed before the date wheth of which they been laid instead of which they been addressed by the persons entitled thereto having regard desty to the clastes and butween or which they been laid instead. POR SALE **PHOTOSALES** Prints of Photographs from The Times and the Eurolay Times can be purchased from the Photosake, Library WIMBLEDON AS A LATE CHRISTMAS The Times PO Box 481 Virginia Street Landon E1 980 ICHA RYSZARD Observing RULA RICHARD, of 46A FONTHELL ROAD, LONDON INI, died on 6th October 1969 perticu-lers to Amburs Brown Date of Comment of Secret, Street, S. James's, London SW17 65J before 24th February 1993. PRESENT Tel 071-782-5251 Tyrical Price 10x6 Colour Priot £10 12x10 Colour Priot £12 Seringfield Heaptini, 61 Genharde Read, London SW17 TDJ, died on 26th October, 1992, particulars to Godfrey Davis & Baldwin, Solicitors of 19A Upper Green East, Mitchart, Sorrey, CR4 2300 before 7th March 1995. MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS NOW 25% OFF XMAS GREETINGS Bösendorfer BIRTHDAYS

1991/5 Offers over £25,000 MLH George US! 651 3211 (During office hours) Invest in Musical Excellence When remoding to advertisements readers are advised to establish the face value and full details of tickets before entering into any commitment with outstanding savings on new list prices. BÖSENDORFER FLANOS Tel 071 486 3111 Tel 071 935 7378 All gold. Champes of with diamond for and diamond bezel. In full presentation box with Fax 071 935 2265 INSTRUMENTS SARGAMII Kawat CX9 upright stane, Black, Hardly used, Ideal Only



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CHRISEA. Best Let fir Indicases find in Celebry St. Light & bright & wetern. 2 Spr rooms. hit & bests. £220pw. C71 3814128 ERRESHIGTON WS Lux 1 bed fast behind Berkern, dw & wan etc. £220pw. C71-753 2389 Wil Range of 1 bed fints overlook-ing Porman Marus within walking distance of Selfridges £180pw Inc. CR. William W Brown 071 636 2736. ARLA BARNES SW.13 Lax confy redarb 3 had heats with gorden £290pv
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PARKERS 071-724, 4455 FLATSHARE FUTNEY. Gred/Prof 33+. N/8 for own rm and share warm. county fir with 1 Giber in period hes. Shaps & transport. All mod cons inc fax: 3do and burmens cal. £50 pw cod, 081 788 3720 PUTMEY Prof fem large luxury bou latchen, Large of hies, E76pw, 1 8697 (d) or ORI + avail Jan. Flatlet 081 677 0806 for WEST NESS Large supply room in history flat, avail n/s, an mod cons. tube nearby, 2100 pw inci Tel: Evendan 071 585 6768

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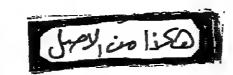
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OBITUARIES

DR E LESTER SMITH

Dr E. Lester Smith, FRS, research scientist at Glaxo (1926-1964), discoverer of vitamin B12, has died aged 88. He was born on August 7, 1904.

Stellar

up for

AS A lifelong vegetarian, Lester Smith, iamiliarly known as ELS, cut an odd path to fame, teasing out minute amounts of factors of nutritional and medical importance from stinking materials of animal origin. He and his team achieved their most notable success in 1948 when they gazed upon a few red crystals of vitamin B12, the last of the vitamins to be identified. which they had isolated from tons of condemned livers from the slaughterhouse. With iron and folic acid (another B-vitamin), vitamin B12 completed a trio of hematinic antianaemia factors, and its discovery went a long way in elucidating the "animal

protein factor".

ELS had begun the quest in 1938, out research had to be interrupted because of the war. He was remarkable as a research scientist who served his whole professional career as such, from 1926 to 1964, in industry. He was a leader among the scientists who transformed Glaxo, a firm famous funtil then for baby foods, into an organisation standing comparison award of a PhD. It was so good with the forces of chemical and and he rated this the best of his biochemical research in universities theoretical work - that he was and pharmaceutical houses in elevated direct to the DSc degree Germany and the United States.

His career illustrated a predicament 1933. In the early 1940s he and Dr that has challenged other British James Page, a Glaxo colleague, managements: how to keep first-class discovered during research on some researchers equipped and rewarded in unsuccessful anti-tubercular comtheir element, keeping boffins at pounds, a process for extraction that benches without advancement solely was later turned to good account in in administrative roles sapping their organic chemistry and minerology

ELS joined Glaxo with an MSc from Chelsea Polytechnic, London. While industry. working for the company on vitamins A and D and other medicinal and of Glaxo's secret production of peninutritional substances to counter rick- cillin and of research on this and ets and other deficiency diseases, he other medical products. The early pursued research on soap solutions fermentations, with their minute and emulsions intended to qualify for yields, were developed as production

Andy Kirk, Jazz

saxophonist and bandleader, died in New

York on December 12

aged 94. He was born in

Newport, Kentucky, on

May 28, 1898.

E Clouds of Joy, the band

ch Andy Kirk led from

until 1949, was one of

pest-known and most pop-

r of the "territory bands" red in Kansas City that red the towns and cities of

southwest United States.

ince group had a reputation for playing romantic ballads longside hot jazz, and ri-alled the orchestras of Bennie

Woten and Walter Page. In

1936, Kirk achieved nation-

vide fame with the hit song

Until The Real Thing Comes

Mong", and moved his base

At m the midwest to New

The Among the soloists who stand with the Clouds of Joy

Dick Wilson, and Fats oarro.

Colorado, after the matter of his mother. He

death of his mother. He death of his interest in music

Aler, a former Boston Sym-

shone lessons from Franz



when he submitted his thesis in and in the separation of new elements produced by the nuclear

During the war ELS was in charge

was dispersed into other sites to return 80 per cent of the British

output of penicillin by 1945.
With his background in physical chemistry ELS contributed vitally to research on water-soluble compounds such as the penicillins and vitamin B12, whose properties and structures exceeded the bounds of traditional taught organic chemistry. Lester Smith was involved in

further aspects of the vitamin in blochemistry, microbiology, biosynthesis, medicine and nutrition that opened up, as more examples of this class of cobalamines and co-enzymes. as well as the basic corrins, were

In 1955, with collaborators in the universities of Oxford, Cambridge, and California, Glaxo could announce details of the enormous molecular structure of the red vitamin. Absorption through the gut of this hitherto mysterious extrinsic factor requires the assistance of intrinsic factors. On the other hand the giant molecule nimbly takes part in single carbon chemistry involving small molecules that still fascinates

researchers.
The Methuen monograph ELS wrote in 1960 on vitamin B12 had already reached its third edition in 1965. By this time clues from the manufacture of antibiotics had been translated into means of switching micro-organisms into producers of cobalamines in quantity in fermentation tanks, so supplies were available for treatment of pernicious anaemia, with many dramatic cures. Nutritional requirements of vitamin B12 are minute - loz would furnish a lifetime's requirement for 500 people and pernicious anaemia usually develops after deterioration or surgery of the gut rather than from dietary deficiency. Manufactured vitamin B12 is now sold in quantity to fortify foods and feeds and as a supplement and booster. It is of very low toxicity and many of these additions go, literally, down the pan-Lester Smith's discoveries appro-

priately rescued vegetarians from dilemmas over consumption of dairy produce and eggs, and he joined with other scientists in the formation, in 1965, of the Vegetarian Nutrition Research Centre.

Exploitation of the new knowledge could have spared the aged Bernard Shaw the earlier indignity of injections of liver extract. Vegetarians were suffering the contumely of nutritionists — full of wind and self-righteousness". But it was a jibe particularly unapt for ELS — and he equably submitted, with other volunteest and the self-righteousness. teers, to batteries of clinical tests (including measurements of brain waves) to assure doubters that vegetarians were "all right".

ELS inherited philosophies from his parents and accordingly joined the Theosophical Society in 1928 and involved himself in its research group, which included other scientists. He was a keen walker and thus met Winifred, his wife, who predeceased him. He excelled at gardening and practised a stern over-the-fence view of other toilers' efforts. He was especially proud of his triumph in breeding double auriculas, with which he carried off the Lindley Medal of the Royal Horticultural

Society. A vigorous spirit of enquiry informed Lester Smith's whole life. His last book, Inner Adventures, published in 1988, and the earlier Our Last Adventure (1982) express the composure and humanity of a modest, skilful, and gentle man.

DANA ANDREWS

Dana Andrews Hollywood actor, died on December 17 aged 83. He was born on January 1. 1909.

DANA Andrews achieved the brief peak of his career in the 1940s when dramatic roles in The Oxbow Incident (1943). Laura (1944). A Walk in the Sun (1945) and The Best Years of Our Lives (1946) gave him the chance to extend his usual range as a pleasant, rugged, but generally rather stolid player. For much of the remainder of a busy Hollywood career that lasted almost forty years he seemed destined to be either second lead or, as star, second choice in a string of barely remembered films.

His career was not helped by drinking problems which he amributed to work pressures when his career fully took off in the mid-1940s. "It soon became a real problem", he recalled; "I never showed up drunk or drank on the set, but after all-night drinking bouts i wouldn't look too good". After winning his personal battle, in the late 1960s he became an enthusiastic propagandist for the National Council on Alcoholism.

Born Carver Daniel Andrews in Collins, Mississippi, he was the son of a Baptist minister. A brother also became a film actor under the

name of Sieve Forrest.

After graduation from Sam Houston university and a brief period as an accountant, Andrews hitch-hiked to Los Angeles where he worked as a garage attendant while studying at the Pasadena Playhouse. He made his stage debut în 1935, and în 1939 was put under a contract at \$150 per week by Sam Gold-wyn. He had a line or two in The Westerner (1940) and played in a few B-pictures at Goldwyn and 20th Century Fox before landing the juvenile role in John Ford's Tobacco Road. Supporting parts in other prestige pictures - Belle Starr, Ball of Fire and Jean Renoir's Swamp Water — led to his casting as the leader of the trio of innocent wanderers who are lynched in The Oxbow Incident. The intensity of this performance won him the

best notices of his career. During the war Andrews was exempted from military service: "the army said I was fit enough to serve but could do a



much better job by being a soldier on the screen", he explained. Apart from Lewis Milestone's fine A Walk in the Sun. his war roles included The North Star, A Wing and a Prayer and Milestone's The Purple Heart. After the war came two of his best parts, as a disillusioned returning flyer in The Best Years of Our Lives, and as the prosecuting attor-ney in Elia Kazan's

Boomerang. From this point Andrews never again seemed able to find really rewarding parts. He fared no better after finally buying out his contract with Goldwyn, in 1952. He made a couple of films in Britain in the 1950s, a sure sign of slipping stardom at that time, and three more in Italy in the

In 1969 he played in a television soap opera, Bright Promise, and returned to Britain for a dim espionage thriller, Innocent Bystanders, in 1972. His last film roles were in The Last Tycoon (1976) and Good Guys Wear Black (1978).

As his acting career faltered, Andrews increasingly interested himself in his real estate investments. In recent years he had been a victim of Alzheimer's disease. Andrews, who was president of the Screen Actors'

Guild in 1965, was twice married. His first wife Janet Murray died in 1935 after three years of marriage. His second wife, the former actress Mary Ford, whom he married in 1939, sued for divorce on grounds of cruelty in 1967, but the suit was abandoned and the couple, who had a son and two daughters, were reconciled. Andrews also had a son by his first marriage.

ANDY KIRK



Clouds of Joy, California, 1933: Kirk clapping with Mary Lou Williams

studying arranging and com-position with Walter Light. Although he had a job with the postal service, Kirk realised, at the age of 20, he could be paid four dollars a night for just holding a saxophone, let alone playing it, and he re-solved to master several instru-ments in the hope of finding as much work as possible as a musician. He quickly added tuba and double bass to his array of saxophones, and in 1919 he was hired by a local bandleader George Morrison. They travelled to New York in 1920, where Kirk made his first records, one of which "I

Know Why" was issued. Mor-

rison's band was essentially a

sweet dance orchestra, and

Kirk recalled his surprise at the hot music played by Jelly Roll Morton or Gene Coy's Happy Black Aces when they passed through Denver. In 1926, Kirk travelled to Dallas to join T. Holder's band. which eventually became the Clouds of Joy, when Holder gave up the leadership. Kirk's Denver upbringing gave him

a clear-sighted view of racial intolerance, which he claimed barely existed in pre-war Colorado. Meeting Jack Tea-garden in Okiahoma confirmed this: "his great jazz feeling, beat and improvising demolished the old stereotype of coloured bands having a

monopoly on jazz ... We played more white than Jack's

Holder's band, it was called the "Dark Clouds of Joy". He dropped the "dark" because of its racial overtones. Kirk gave up playing to

band." When Kirk took over

concentrate on directing his band in the early 1930s, adding singer Pha Terrell to his ranks, who sang "Until The Real Thing Comes Along". Decca's recording manager Jack Kapp was largely responsible for the band's success on disc, by insisting that the young Mary Lou Williams play piano on her own compositions and. later, by astutely substituting Terrell's bailads for hot jazz.

Kirk retired from full time bandleading in 1949, running a restaurant, an estate agency and Harlem's Theresa Hotel, before settling for a desk job with the American Federation of Musicians. The Clouds re-emerged on an occasional basis in the 1950s and 1960s, and in 1989 Kirk published his autobiography.

Twenty Years on Wheels. He married Mary Colston, planist with Morrison, but their son, the saxophonist Andy Kirk Jr, predeceased him. Kirk was honoured in January 1991 by President Bush, who created him an American Jazz Master.

HERMANN MUSAPH

former professor of medical secology at the University of Utrecht, died in Amsierdam on November 18 aged 77.

HERMANN Musaph's work on the psychological impor-tance of skin contact between mother and child made him one of the leading sexologists

of his generation. He argued that motherchild skin contact is essential for a child's healthy psychological and sexual development. He claimed that much abnormal sexual behaviour could be traced to touch deprivation in

early years. He also linked many dermatological complaints to psychological disorders.

With leading sexologist John Money, Musaph cowrote the standard work in the field, the Handbook of

Sexology.

His father, mother, brother and sister died in Nazi concenration camps and he wrote most of his graduation thesis while in hiding from The Netherlands' Nazi occupiers. He is survived by his wife Ted, concentration camp survivor. and a director of Amsterdam's Jewish Historical Museum.

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MANNOUNCEMENTS

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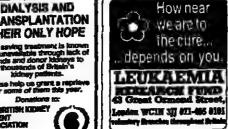
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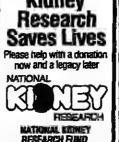
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OBITUARY. It is with much regret that we announce

this morning the death of Mr George Edmund Street, RA, the distinguished architect, at the comparatively early age of 57. He was suddenly seized with paralysis on Thursday, and expired last night at a quarter-past 10 at his house, 14 Cavendish Place. Mr Street was born at Woodford, Essex, in 1824, and educated at the Collegiate School, Camberwell. His architectural studies were begun under Mr Owen Carter at Winchester, and completed under the late Sir George Gilbert Scott, with whom he remained five years. Like his master, Mr Street adopted the Gothic style in the buildings he erected, and the numerous essays and lectures which he has written upon architecture have all been directed to illustrate the history

and principles and promote the progress of that style. His principal literary efforts are "The Brick and Marble Architecture of North Italy in the Middle Ages," 1855; and

ON THIS DAY December 19 1881

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After competing against some of the most famous architects of his day, it was George Edmund Street who was chosen to design the new Royal Courts of Justice in London.

"Some Account of Gothic Architecture in Spain," 1865. Mr Street has for many years been largely engaged in the work of erecting and restoring churches and other ecclesiastical buildings all over the country. To mention only the most prominent among his erections, he was the architect of the Ouddesden Theological College, of the chapel and schoolrooms of Uppingham College, and of new churches at Bournemouth. Garden Street, Westminster, St Philip and St James, Oxford; St John, Tor-

quay. All Saints', Clifton; St Saviour, Eastbourne; St Margaret, Liverpool; and St Mary Magdalen, Paddington. Among his restorations may be noticed the churches of Eccleshall, Wantage, Uffington, in Berks, and Stone, in Kent, and Jesus College Chapel. Oxford. Perhaps his most considerable work in church building was the erection of the nave of Bristol Cathedral in the Early English style. He was also engaged upon the restoration of the nave and building of a new choir in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, and on building a new synod-house in connexion with the Cathedral for the Irish Church. But in London Mr Streer's reputation will mainly rest upon the Royal Courts of Justice in the Strand, now approaching completion. He was appointed architect for this gigantic undertaking in 1868, after a competition in which the most famous architects of the day took part. The outer shell is fairly complete and the public are able to judge of the imposing effect which the Royal Courts will present.

THE TIMES TODAY

Trapped Palestinians wounded

■ Israeli border guards wounded five deported Palestinians who were trapped between Lebanon and the Israelicontrolled security zone and who had tried to move south.

As world leaders condemned the decision to expel 418, after an Israeli guard had been abducted and killed by the radical Palestinian group, Hamas, those removed from Israel

EC and US want quick Gatt accord

■ EC and American trade negotiators have been instructed to aim for a Gatt agreement before President Bush leaves office on January 20. This emerged as Mr Bush welcomed John Major and Jaques Delors, the EC president, to Washington yesterday

ton by surprise when he an-

nounced, on a visit to Peking,

that, next month, he and Presi-

dent Bush would sign Start II.

cutting strategic nuclear weap-

George Soros, the Hungarian-

born financier who was dubbed

"the man who broke the pound

on Black Wednesday", has given

\$50 million (£31.6 million) to

help war victims in the former

Three Somali gunmen have

been killed after firing on ma-

rines in the American embassy

compound in MogadishuPage 9

Laurent Fabius, a former prime

minister and leader of the gov-

erning French Socialist party,

will stand trial, along with two

former ministers, for their role in

the scandal over the distribution

of blood which was knowingly

contaminated by the Aids

ons further.....

Yugoslavia.....

Fabius trial

Somalis killed

Charity millions

Oxbridge first

Men, public schools and Oxford and Cambridge universities maintain their dominant hold over the top 100 jobs, according to an Economist survey .. Page 1

TV hitch

The Independent Television Commission decided yesterday not to award the Channel 5 licence to the sole bidder, a consortium led by Thames Television Pages 1, 5

Jet lag pill

A pill containing a small dose of the hormone, melatonin, may belp to overcome jet lag, according to scientists studying the workings of the human biology

New alliance

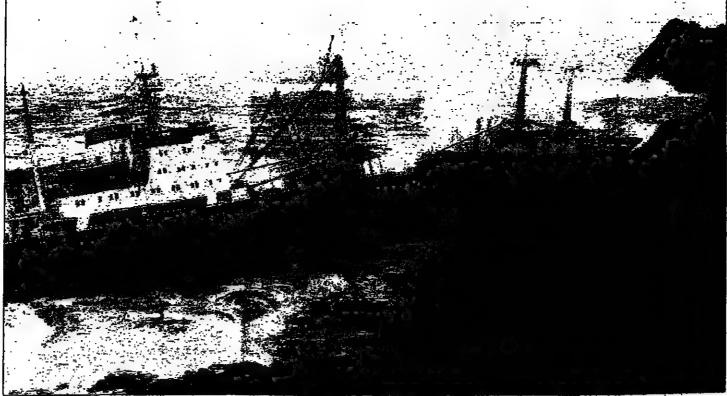
Former Warsaw pact members said yesterday that they were willing to take part, with Nato, in joint peace-keeping missions in

Yeltsin shock

President Yeltsin took Washing-

Before the forest, came the farmers

New archaeological research suggests that the Amazon rain forest may be a lot younger than many experts believed. Large areas of "virgin" forest are only a few hundred years old, and they developed across a region that had been heavily populated by farmers



Devon wreck: storms forced the 10,000-ton Demetrics, unmanned and under tow, on to the rocks at Prawle Point. Page 2

Power: Professor Stephen Littlechild, head of Offer, the electricity industry regulator, said more competition was needed to limit the market power of Britain's two big generators, PowerGen and Nat-

... Page 17 ional Power... Marketa: Shares surged to end just below a record high, with the FT-SE 100 index closing up 49.4 at 2,789.7, with almost one billion shares changing hands in frantic pre-Christmas trading..... Page 17

for security reasons ...

Rugby: Fred Howard, England's most experienced official who has just been dropped from the international panel, is in charge of the Midiands-South and South-West match today.... Hockey: England may now miss the Indira Gandhi men's tournament, postponed to February after Australia and Malaysia withdrew

Instant Christmas: No need to feel guilty now if you have not made all vour festive food plans weeks in advance. Francess Bissell, The

Times cook, suggests a meal that

needs no oven ... Weekend, page 4 Greens of the future: Robin Young writes about the Israeli scientists who have developed a nutritious duckweed...... Weekend, page 4

Off-licence winners: Jane Mac-Quity on the best wine buys at your local branch..... Weekend, page 5

Abundant winter: Francesca Greenoak on the foliage just waiting to be used in festive dec-

...... Weekend, page 6

Ruffling male feathers: Men in dull camouflage are in for a shock of brilliance to add to the winter ... Weekend, page 8

Not all misery: Sharon Gless cast aside her television persona, as New York cop Cagney, to make her West End debut in Misery, an adaptation of the Stephen King thriller that has already been turned into a successful film. "What is King offering us here?" asks Benedict Nightingale. "The self-flagellating nightmare of a popular writer who feels he has not done himself artis-

Glants of grunge: The early songs of Nirvana, the group which spearheaded the grunge revolution and joited the world of rock on its axis, have been collected together into a new album Weekend page 12

tic justice?"...... Weekend page 12

Glant of plantam: At the age of 80, Shura Cherkassky still has the phenomenal technique and the grand manner of a 19th-century romantic virtuoso. His live Carnegie Hall recital, on his eightieth birthday, has now been issued on compact ... Weekend page 12

SIMON JENKINS

Muscovites wait and they wait. High in the Supreme Soviet the boyars still plot against the tsar, against Boris the Hesitant. In the streets beneath, huddled millions bend their heads against the sleet, shuffling past vendors deep in frozen mud. Buildings stand dark and decrepit. More seem to be ruined each time I come Page 12

ALAN COREN

It was all very well for William Wordsworth, lolling in the warm grass above Tintern Abbey in the blissful days before tabloid newspapers, Channel 4, and the full flowering of the support group industry had brought ubiquitous suspicion into the world Weekend, page 6

Is it time for Christians to give up celebrating Christmas and hand it back to devotees of paganism and New Age religion?...

The eccentric French composer Erik Satie, who recommended that one of his piano pieces should be played 840 times without a break is profiled in Music on Two (BBC2, Page [4] 7.20pm).....

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Ва

ab

No man's land

Internment, though unpalatable. would have been a far more efficient weapon ... Like the deportees themselves. Mr Rabin now finds himself in his own unenviable no man's land

Blocked channels

The end result of the Broadcasting Act is that the Treasury is a paltry £250 million the richer. British television, and its 55 million viewers, are vastly the poorer Page 13

Christmas presents

The note of strangeness which they bring into life enhances the richness of experience and the question of their ultimate disposal sharpens the wits which good living might else make dull...

"Suffer the little children": the hospital and its patients reply to criticism of their campaign to save

The US has long opposed expulsions from the occupied territories, and rightly so. Mass punishment is no answer to the crimes of individuals.

- The New York Times

Israel has made it plain that it is interested in serious negotiations. It won't, even at the earnest behest of the Camel Corps at the Foreign Office, prepare its own execution.

- Evening Standard

The West has a moral debt to pay to Somalia. Who knows, the Americans may even rediscover their soul - one that is not that of a world policeman or a military superpower.

- L'Unita (Rome)

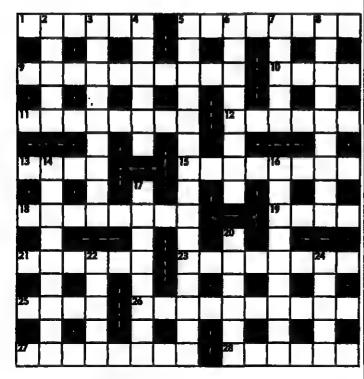
STOCK MARKEY

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HORTH SEA ONE

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,106

PARKER A prize of a superb Parker Duofold International Fountain Pen, with an 18 carat gold nib and fully guaranteed for the lifetime of the original owner will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Wednesday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486. Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.



- 1 Modern poet, one of doubtful reputation (6).
 5 Filled out a record for person
- who's resigned (8). Young man likely to misbehave? Right (4-6).
- 10 One area that's wet? Quite the reverset (4).

 11 Weapon fired back in fight (8).

 12 Completely fitting parts of Bible within one old case (2.4).
- 13 Sailing vessel at Land's End in
- 15 Moving about (8).
- 18 Name-dropping aristocratic female (8).
- 19 Attach to river bank (4). 2! As long as one's left in the game
- 23 Drive off front of tee, as green has been shifted (8).
- 25 Cut. point by point (4). 26 Uproar produced in port by a
- 27 Naval commander delays RN at
- sea (8). 28 Delightful girl put on red slip (6).

Solution to Puzzle No 19.100 TEMERITY PASSIM

E G B T A GANAPE B M U

- It maintains circulation as news-paper boss suffers second loss (5).
 Historic craft has potential to
- 4 Keep quiet, absorbed by religion
- 5 Academic representative, with leftist sympathics (6-9).
 6 End semester? (8).
- 7 It's okay, in short, to make rapid strides (5).
- 8 Replacement's taken over bats-man's position in ground (9). 14 Paganism appears to inflame king (9).
- 16 Big numbers dismantling apart
- heid (3,6). 17 Drink editor decisively finished
- off (8). 20 Constituent on the way from the City to Westminster (6).
- 22 Pound note in another currency

24 Governor's first opportunity to prepare for office (5).

Concise Crossword, page 16 Weekend

Solution to Puzzle No 19,105 MINION ARTICLED A M O M O E GLOBBER AGGRESS

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West Country . 738 739 740 742 743 744 745 Northern Ireland AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: C Martin, Grebe Close, Alton, Hants: D J Clarkson Cornwall Rd, Harrowgate; K H Cudmore, Acton Sudbury, Suffolk; M Philpott, Church Hill, Shepherdswell, Dover, Mrs Stanton, Lullington Close, Luton.

Another wet day in East Anglia and southern England. with sleet or snow possible on higher ground. Rain is possible in the Midlands and southwest England later, with snow on high ground. The rest of the country will be cold with sunny periods. Wintry showers are expected over Scotland, Northern Ireland and northwestern England and Wales. The northerly wind will make it feel cold. Outlook: cold and dry with some freezing fog.



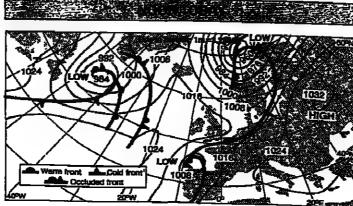
London 4.23 pm to 7.34 am Bristol 4.33 pm to 7.43 am Edinburgh 4.9 pm to 8.12 am Manchester 4.20 pm to 7.53 am Perizance 4.51 pm to 7.48 am

Sun rises: 8.3 am

London 4.23 pm to 7.34 am Bristol 4.33 pm to 7.44 am Edinburgh 4.9 pm to 8.12 em Manchester 4.21 pm to 7.53 em Penzance 4.52 pm to 7.49 em Sun sata: 3.53 pm



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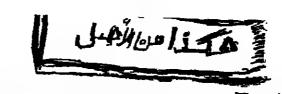
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BUSINESS 17-26

Interview: Lloyds Bank boss worries about the future



CYCLING 28

Chris Boardman: looking for a ticket to ride



GOLF 30

Nick Faldo: a man driven by pursuit of perfection



SATURDAY DECEMBER 19 1992

WEEKEND MONEY

Wheel channels

HI WHIZE presents

LETTERS

ABETTING AID



The current decline in charitable giving, while demand for aid soars, means that tax-efficient donations have become even more important

VIEWS VARY

As demand grows for a members of company opinions differ about

CHARGED UP



Are Peps worth it? One reader claims administration less charged on his Pep have far outstripped dividends Letters, page 23

TAKE COUNSEL



service is planned. Geeta Varma will be helping people in

THE POUND

US dollar

1.5675 (-0.0130)

German mark

2147.6 (+55.1)

2789.7 (+49.4)

3288.68 (+19.45)*

Tokyo Nikkei Avge

17680.74 (+242.83)

CURRENCIES

GOLD

NORTH SEA OIL

Brant (Jan) \$18.40/bbl (\$18.50)

London Fishing: AM \$337.15 PM \$337.00 Close \$336.90-337.30 £214.50-215.50

New York: Cornex \$ 336.75-337.25*

FT-SE 100

Power regulator urges greater competition

By Ross Tieman INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE air of crisis enveloping Britain's energy policy deepened further yesterday when the electricity industry regu-lator confirmed profound flaws in the operation of power markets.

Stephen Littlechild, the head of Offer, electricity's regulatory body, said recent experience showed more comperition was needed to limit the market power of National Power and PowerGen, Brit-

ain's two big generators. His findings in a report on the operation of the electricity pricing pool add to a growing body of evidence that the structure of electricity privati-sation was gravely flawed. Electricity company profits have surged ahead despite the recession, large industrial users complain high power prices are making them uncompetitive, and a rash of new plants under construction is

expected to lead to a massive surplus in generating capacity. Professor Littlechild yesterday acknowledged growing pressure to trigger a Monopolies and Mergers Commission enquiry into the electricity industry. Sir James McKinnon, the gas regulator, has already called an MMC enquiry into British Gas, with

a recommendation that the

combany be broken ub. Offer's chief, however, said he would hold off to study developments. But he made it plain that he would not hesitate to call an early enquiry if competition failed to develop, or customers failed to benefit

from lower prices. In his sternest critique on a growing list of adverse findings into complaints by large business customers, Professor Littlechild said the exercise of market power by the two generators had pushed up prices in the electricity pool, or

■ The privatisation of the electricity industry was fatally flawed, according to the power watchdog who is calling for greater competition between the generators

spot market. In the four months to September, prices were up 20 per cent, year on year, as a result.

There was no suggestion, he said, that the generators had colluded. However, with 43.6 per cent of the market controlled by National Power, 28.2 per cent by PowerGen, 18.7 per cent by Nuclear Electric and just 9.6 per cent by other rivals, the big genera-tors could hardly avoid shaping the market.

The existence of a duopoly adds to the unpredictability of pool prices," he said. This had already deterred some wouldbe new entrants, and "is not conducive to the development of an effective market for hedges against risk".

The regulator said there was no need for penalties because prices in the pool, a highly peripheral market, were below the cost of power production. But he is now becoming increasingly alarmed at the level of prices in the contract market, where the bulk of electricity is bought and sold. When three-year contracts, put in place by the government anead of privatisation expire next spring. Professor Littlechild said, he would expect the benefit of lower fuel prices and reduced operating

costs to be passed on. "A move towards more realistic pool prices should be accompanied by a more comperitive contract market." Pro-

fessor Littlechild said. That clear warning, voiced by the regulator for the second time in as many weeks, leaves the generators in no doubt that they are expected to start sharing the benefit of cost-

cutting with customers, as well as shareholders. National Power was pleased the regulator had found nothing improper in its actions and was confident forward contract

prices could be justified. The regulator still pins his hopes for the industry on the development of competition. Nine gas-fired power plants under construction should lift the market share of rivals to the big three generators from 9.6 per cent to 20 per cent within two years, he said.

At the same time, he cleared the way for other market reforms which could alleviate some pressures on industrial companies. The regulator called on the Pool Executive Committee, which runs the pool, to simplify its operation. And he suggested the rule that compels trading through the pool be dropped

That would enable power stations to supply factories direct, enabling them to cut

transmission charges. Whether these measures will be sufficient to satisfy the power industry's critics remains to be seen. When the. government privanseo power industry, it scheduled a series of reviews to sort out teething problems in Britain's novel electricity markets. But ministers never envisaged such a rapid, widespread, or painful outbreak of trouble: government to increase competition in the electricity market. A spokesman said Offer's conclusions backed up its own complaints that electricity prices are higher than neces-



Name to be reckoned with: Stephen Littlechild, yesterday, accepted the possibility of a monopolies enquity

Shares surge close to record level

By JANET BUSH AND MICHAEL CLARK

BRITISH share prices rose to near-record highs on very high volume, in what ap-peared to be the start of a traditional pre-Christmas rally. The surge occurred despite government figures contain-ing more evidence of econom-

The FT-SE 100 index jumped 49.4 points to 2,789.7, compared with its record high of 2,792.0 on December 1. Turnover, at 940 million shares, was the highest since sterling left the Ex-change Rate Mechanism on

September 16. The burst of buying seemed to start for purely technical reasons, with the expiry of a December futures contract. but since last week, investors have been tying up the loose ends of their portfolios before sary. ICI said prices should be

the year end. Most traders were caught on the hop. The rush was signalled by the expiry of the financial future December series around midmorning.

Investors have been encouraged by predictions from severau securities noui index will breach the 3,000 level early in the new year as the market gears up for economic recovery.

Fund managers are reluctant to leave spare funds on deposit, because of the drop in interest rates since Black Wednesday. Many regard the London stock market as the cheapest in the world, and likely to benefit quickly from an economic pick-up.

Second line companies also attracted attention, but stock shortages meant that not all buying orders were completed. There was little justification for pre-Christmas cheer from economic statistics. Sterling traded quietly and ended little changed. Most disappointing was news from the Bank of England of weakness in the money suppl suggests that demand for cred-

it remains low. The M4 measure of money supply fell a provisional, seasonally adjusted 0.2 per cent in November; its annual rate of growth dropped to 4.7 per cent, from 5.4 per cent in October, M4 is not officially targeted by the government but there is a "monitoring" range of 4 to 8 per cent.

The most significant figure was M4 lending, which includes mortgage lending by banks and building societies

and lending to companies. There was net debt repayment of £600 million and the annual growth rate of M4 lending fell to 4.4 per cent, the lowest since the Bank of England's records began.

Within these figures, bank mortgage lending appeared to be holding up quite well; lowinterest, fixed-rate mortgages seem popular. But building society lending and bank lending to companies remain very weak. The weakness of company borrowing suggests deep pessimism about recovery

Sterling drifted a little lower to DM 2.4525. The French franc managed to recover a little against the mark to 3.4145.

Trade gap narrows, page 18

Isosceles asks banks

for delay on debts By OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

2.4531 (-0.0054) Exchange Index ISOSCELES, the troubled su-80.4 (-0.3) permarkets group, has asked its bankers for an emergency Bank of England official close (4pm) standstill on its £1.4 billion STOCK MARKET debts by Christmas to delay an interest bill of more than £20 million that falls due before FT 30 share

the new year. The group and its advisers made the plea at an all-day meeting on Thursday at Hill Samuel, the merchant bank **New York Dow Jones** called in to try to restructure the group's borrowings. Un-less the banks agree the standstill soon, Isosceles could face

administration. Isosceles' difficulties follow a sharp worsening in its trading INTEREST RATES earlier this year and a fall in sales and margins. "Every-London: Bank Base, 7%
3-month Interbank, 74-71-%
3-month eligible bills: 67-611-88
US: Prime Rate, 6%
Federal Funds: 22-%
3-month Treesury Bitts: 3.17-3.15%
30-year bonds: 1021-1025-2

trouble," a banker said. Isosceles is thought to have the funds to pay the imminent interest charge but would be left dangerously short of cashflow. Midland, Isosceles' new

agent bank, is trying to persuade the other 37 banks to agree the standstill rapidly to give Hill Samuel time to organise a refinancing. Midland is thought to have an exposure of more than £100 million, while others including the Industrial Bank of Japan, the Bank of Nova Scotia and Chemical Bank are all said to be owed more than £50 million. Sources close to the talks said that the banks were keen to ensure that the group continues trading.

Tesco acquires French group as bridgehead on Continent

very good in fresh produce but

they are about six years behind

us in other things, like distri-bution." Tesco plans to intro-

duce own-brand goods into

ment on Tariffs and Trade,

underlined the problem in

recent remarks to The Times.

"Everyone is split on ba-

nanas," he said. Mr Dunkel,

struggling to bring the world trade talks to a successful

conclusion, said that Com-

munity was not alone in being

split over the banana issue.

The Latin Americans and the

Africa-Caribbean and Pacific

group were divided too.

By Neil Bennett

TESCO has launched its longawaited drive into continental Europe, with the acquisition of a controlling stake in Etablissements Catteau, a family-owned French supermarkets group, for £176

about 15 per cent lower.

Sir Ian MacLaurin, Tesco's chairman, described the deal as "a good Christmas present on both sides of the Channel". Catteau has 90 food stores in north-west France, including local grocery shops called Cedimarché, medium-sized stores named Cedico, and two hypermarkets near Calais called HyperCedico. Tesco is buying an 85 per

the stores to boost margins. "We have always said we wanted to diversify abroad but we have had strict criteria," Sir Ian said. "We came across

taking options on the family's Catteau in 1989 and started to remaining shares over the talk to them early this year. next three years. The manage-Catteau is in France, where we ment, almost entirely memwant to be, and has good management. It is not big but bers of the Catteau family, have agreed to continue runthis will be a good learning ning the business until then. curve. This is a toehold and we Sir lan said Tesco managers will take it slowly, but hopefulwould meet their opposite numbers at Catteau to show ly we will look back on this as

our first step into Europe." them a few tricks. "They are Tesco will fund the acquisition out of its own resources, since it represents the cost of less than half a year's organic expansion. Last year, Catteau had sales of Fr2.87 billion (£341 million) and a pre-tax profit of Fr 126 million, giving it some of the highest operating margins of a French food

duce from African and Carib-

bean suppliers will enter the

Community tariff-free in

amounts based on recent

looks set to pay more for her bananas, while Britons

should see prices slip. Shares

in Geest, Britain's biggest

banana importer, rose 53p to

343p in response to the deal.

Pyffes shares rose 10p to 80p.

The Latin Americans have

The German Hausfrau

import levels.

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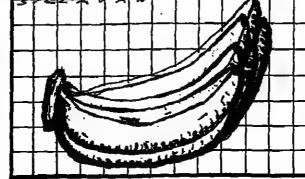
where you look this group is in European import deal zips up the great banana split

BY COLIN NARBROUGH WORLD TRADE

New York: £. \$1.5655* CORRESPONDENT HAVING plucked accord from near-debacle at the Edinburgh summit, the European Community has harvested another success in the dying days of Britain's presidency by sealing the historic split over the banana.

What is a humble, somehow funny, fruit, to most of Europe's consumers, is a cash crop of life-or-death importance to developing nations in the Caribbean and Africa. Britain and other former colonial powers have protected such growers interests, even though it has meant paying more for, in some cases,

undersized bananas. Efforts to produce a common European trade policy had since the Treaty of Rome



in 1957 failed to overcome a fundamental division on bananas. But the start of the single market next month and the wider goal of a world trade pact provided powerful incentives for cleaning up the messy banana regime and switching from quotas to a tariff-based system.

The Germans, easily Eu-

rope's biggest banana eaters and unburdened by empire, headed the cheap hanana camp, buying "dollar" fruit from Latin America. Britain, France, Spain and Portugal, mindful of former and current overseas territories, have pursued preferential trade. Arthur Dunkel, directorgeneral of the General Agree-

Additional imports will be

tonnes a year, about 400,000 tonnes below present levels.

Yet, after a four-day wrangie. Community agriculture ministers agreed on Thursday to limit imports of Latin American bananas and protect the Community's growers and Caribbean and African producers. Latin American fruit will be subject to a tariff of 20 per cent on 2 million

threatened to take the matter to law, but the Caribbean Banana Exporters Association (CBEA) is more relaxed. though not entirely happy. The new rules are only

expected to come into force in the second half of next year. In the interim, British customs are enhancing antismuggling surveillance to prevent importers rushing in charged 170 per cent. Prothe low-price banana.

RETAIL PRICES RPI: 139.7 November (1987≈100) By GEORGE SIVELL

ASDA, the food retailer, surprised the City yesterday with better-than-expected results for the first half, sending the shares up 7p to 60½p.

The recovery to pre-tax profits of £54.8 million in the six months to November 14 from losses of £68.8 million easily tops City forecasts of between E31 million and E37 million. It is a stark contrast to the Asda of a year ago, when Archie Norman, the chief executive. was drafted in. His first act was to save a £357 million rights issue, badly needed to cut debts of £931 million.

But Asda was still cautious vesterday about delivering its three-year recovery programme. Patrick Gillam, the chairman, said: "These results demonstrate that our new management team is establishing the platform for recovery. The group is now on a sound financial basis." But he pointed out that Asda faced substantial competition, including 35 superstores that had opened in local rivalry to Asda in the first half.

The dividend has been cut from 1.25p to 0.5p. This had been predicted as part of the recovery plan. Cover of two times was foreshadowed; earnings before exceptional items rose from 0.52p to 1.34p a share. Basic earnings recovered to 2.01p from losses

of 5.71p.
Allied Maples reduced losses from £13.2 million to £11.9 million on sales down from £100 million to £97.3 million. Asda says the carpet and furniture market re-mained weak. Allied is withdrawing from soft furnishings and is closing 15 loss-making stores and its head office.



Reason to refurbish: Archie Norman, the chief executive, who will receive £100,000 as a first-year bonus, says older stores need attention

sales up from £2,303.5 million to £2,347.5 million. Interest charges fell from £63.7 million to £34.4 million, leaving profit before exceptionals up from E10.1 million to £46.1 million. Asda made a net exceptional gain of £8.7 million, the balance between a £26.2 million gain on the disposal of sites and a £17.5 million exceptional cost of a provision against interest swaps that are

the reduction in debts. The swaps locked £700 million of Asda debt into rates between

11 and 13 per cent. The £69.1 million profit on the sale of the stake in MFI helped produce a retained profit of £102.7 million. against a loss of £106.3 million this time last year.

Debts have been cut from £931 million at the time of last October's cash call to £471.6 thanks to the profit on the MFI stake sale, property sales and a £60 million operating cash inflow in the first half.

Asda announced yesterday that it had negotiated a £300 million syndicated bank facility with National Westminster and Swiss Bank to replace a facility agreed at the time of the cash call. The new facility carried with it a softer set of

Mr Norman said he be-

BAe will

lieved Asda debts would now be stable and that the spending on refurbishment would be financed out of cash flow. Provisions for restructuring

set up last year are shown in the balance sheet to have shrunk from £161.8 million to £146 million. Six of Asda's 204 stores have undergone major works, while Mr Norman said: "The older Asda stores are in serious need of

Mr Gillam said yesterday that the group had talks with institutions over an incentive package for directors. It would be revealed in the annual report at the year end. Mr Norman has had his salary set at £325,000 and will receive first-year bonus of £100,000. He has also been granted 4 million share options exercisable in March 1995 at 38.5p.

Trade gap narrows to £2.2bn

no longer needed because of

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S earnings from invisible trade, such as tourism and profits on overseas investments, helped prevent a further deterioration in the current account of the balance of payments in the third

The current account deficit totalled £2.2 billion in the period compared with [3.1] Illion in the second quarter, an improvement entirely accounted for by a £1.1 billion surplus on invisible trade, according to final figures released yesterday by the Central Statistical Office.

The deficit on visible trade the second quarter.

In its provisional figures, the In its provisional figures, the CSO had estimated an invisibles contribution of only profits and dividends were

£300 million, which left the current account \$2.9 billion in the red. Provisional figures for invisible trade are based on very little hard data and are often subject to large revisions. Invisible earnings were very

substantial in the 1980s during the era of financial deregulation and huge earnings by the City of London. But, as recession hit the country and the financial services sector, invisibles slumped. In the first invisible earnings were still at a low ebb, with a surplus of £186 million in the first quarter and only £100 million in in the quarter was £3.3 billion the second. But yesterday's compared with £3.2 billion in final third quarter figures suggest that invisible trade is

particularly buoyant. Phillips & Drew said the surplus in invisible trade should improve modestly over the course of next year and 1994 as the effect of lower interest rates feed through fully and the pound's devaluation increases the sterling value of overseas earnings. The securities house also said that the current

account would remain in sub-

manutal deficit. One of the deepest concerns about the recession has been Britain's persistent current account deficit as imports have remained buoyant despite weak demand.

As the economy recovers, experience suggests that the visible trade balance will deteriorate further again, making the invisible performance even

shed 600 more jobs BY ROSS TIEMAN INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Aerospace is seeking 600 redundancies at two regional aircraft factories, bringing to 1,250 the number of job losses announced by the company in the past few days. BAe blamed deferrals of orders by recession-hit customers for the job losses, which will affect 350 workers at Woodford, in Greater Man-

BAe said on Wednesday that it would shed 650 jobs next year at Filton, Bristol, and Broughton, near Chester. The extra job losses were announced as Scottish Enterprise, a body that seeks to promote job creation in Scotland, announced that it was shedding 60 staff in Glasgow as part of a restructuring to

Chadderton site.

improve efficiency.

Meanwhile, a Frenchowned car components manufacturer, which suplies parts to Toyota's new plant at Burnaston, Derbyshire, said it would create 300 jobs at a new

factory in the Midlands. actory in the Midianus.

Sommer Industries, which already has a plant in Washington. Tyne and Wear, supplying the Nissan factory in Sunderland, will set up the factory at Fradley Park, near Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire. Production is expected (Reuter). | to begin by next June.

Societies suffer net fall in funds

A STEEP decline in savings rates after Black Wednesday has taken its toll on the amount of money held in building society accounts.
Figures released yesterday

by the Building Societies Association showed that more cash was withdrawn from accounts last month than was paid in. The societies suffered a net decline in funds of £184 million in November, com-£281 million during the previ-

Rates were now a third lower than they were in the late summer, an association spokesman admitted. "Where you could get 9 per cent on your savings before Britain left the ERM, you now only get 6

Other reasons for the decline in building society re-ceipts included the fact that more people were using spare cash to repay borrowings, he said. People are also apparently inclined to withdraw savings to buy Christmas presents this year, rather than build up

debts on credit card accounts. Competition from National Savings, while not as severe as during the summer, was still an important factor. This was likely to be a problem for some time to come, given the gov-ernment's heavy borrowing requirement, the association said. There is also a direct

correlation between savings

deposit levels and housebuying activity.

This is partly due to the inheritance factor. Well over

half the money released by the sale of inherited property goes into building society accounts. Consequently, when house sales are sluggish, cash that would otherwise be channelled into building societies is trapped in bricks and mortar

Mortgage lending in November was higher than in the previous month, but lower in both October and November than in the corresponding period last year. Gross mort-gage lending increased to £2.09 billion last month from £1.998 billion in October. This figure is expected to fall in December, but that is normal for this time of the

Mark Boleat, director-general of the association, said there was anecdotal evidence of a return to household confidence following the re-cent successive reductions in UK base rates. This was fuelling hopes of some im-provement in the housing market next spring. He said the outflow from building society accounts in November was "not unexpected", given the background of "a generally disappointing pattern of savings this year".

BUSINESS ROUND-UP

Trio trust transformed by Bierbaum purchase

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TRIO Investment Trust has been transformed into a financial service group with the £25.5 million acquisition of Martin Bierbaum, the international money broker. The trust is raising £25.8 million from a large rights issue and a placing to pay for the deal. Trio has been forced to surrender its investment trust status as part of the deal and is proposing to rename itself Trio Holdings. The trust is buying Bierbaum from a consortium of banks that repossessed the broker from Quadrex, Gary Klesh's financial group. Confirmation of the

deal follows months of negotiations.

Trio is buying Bierbaum free of all debts. The group also estimates that the broker's operating profits for the year to end-September were £6.5 million. The trust is offering nine shares for every two held by shareholders at 50p each, 5p lower than its suspension price, to raise £10.8 million. Institutions have, meanwhile, agreed to buy 30 million shares for £15 million.

Fraud admitted

LOURDES Lopez, 44, a former assistant manager of the West New York branch of National Westminster bank, admitted her involvement in a fraud and faces a maximum sentence of 30 years in jail and \$1 million in fines, the US Department of Justice said. She was charged with assisting Leonard Grazeola, Union City Treasurer in 1989 and 1990, in committing fraud by opening a NatWest account for him into which he deposited \$3.8 million in embezzled Union City funds.

Cooklin compensated

LAURENCE Cooklin. former chief executive of Burton Group and the replacement for Sir Ralph Halpern, will receive compensation of about £1.5 million, the report and accounts show. Burton paid total compensation of £1.83 million for loss of office, with the balance going to Richard Pym, the director who was in charge of property. Mr Cooklin Pymerized £773 000 as a straight compensation markets. received £773,000 as a straight compensation package, or about one-and-a-half times' salary, and was paid a similar amount under a bonus scheme run by the former board.

Nike orders run ahead

NIKE said its worldwide orders for athletic footwear and apparel scheduled for delivery between December and April totalled \$1.6 billion, 18 per cent higher than the same period last year. Second-quarter earnings to November 30 totalling \$76 million, or \$0.98 per share (\$61.5 million or \$0.80 per share). Nike said its total international sales grew 30 per cent to a record \$372.9 million and represented 43 per cent of second quarter revenues, compared to 39 per cent in the same period last year.

Dwyer deeper in red

LOSSES at Dwyer, the property investment company, deepened from £3.89 million before tax to £6.94 million in the year to September 30, after further provisions of £4.8 million against the declining value of investment properties. Total exceptional charges were £5.4 million. Net rents moved forward to £5.09 million from £4.5 million but profits from property sales declined from £995,000 to £180,000. The company said the balance sheet remained strong with a net worth of £21.5 million. There is no dividend (nil paid).

Losses reduced at J&S

LOSSES at Jones & Shipman, the machine tool maker, were reduced from £2.5 million to £981,000 in the six months to end-September after a restructuring to meet difficult market conditions. The workforce has been cut from 500 to 372 and is expected to fall further to 260. Losses were trimmed from 17.7p a share to 8.2p. There is again no dividend. Turnover was maintained at £6.27 million (£6.7 million), resulting in an operating loss of £819,000 (£2.1 million loss). The group saw "no evidence of positive change in the deep recession".

Kleen-e-ze in the black

KLEEN-E-ZE swept back into the black in the 12 months to August 30 after three years in the red. Rationalisation helped deliver a pre-tax profit of £86,000 (£1.14 million loss). Earnings were 0.6p (16.73p losses) a share, but there is again no dividend. The company, based at Richmond, Surrey. consists of its traditional door-to-door sales of housewares. and Innovations, which sells novel gadgets through the post

Baird buys Van Gils

WILLIAM Baird, the textiles and engineering group, has acquired the Van Gils menswear brand from receivers for £600,000. Baird plans to invest £3 million in the business. which had turnover of £35 million in 1991, over the next two years. Separately, Baird has sold its insulation contracting businesses in Britain and, conditionally, in the Middle East, to Cape for about £9.5 million. There is an initial consideration of £8.25 million in cash.

Japan forecasts growth of 3.3% Tokyo — JAPAN has set its forecasts by private econo-official gross national product mists. Increased public works

(GNP) growth forecast at 3.3 per cent for the 1993-4 fiscal year starting April 1, 1993, a senior Economic Planning Agency (EPA) official said.

Kiichi Miyazawa, the prime minister, has also endorsed the EPA's forecast that real GNP growth for 1992-3 will be only 1.6 per cent, revised down sharply from an earlier forecast of 3.5 per cent.

An EPA official said that the figures were in line with

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Collision course

At Sunderland it takes Nissan 19 hours to make

General Motors need 31 hours. Europe's

now face a nightmare

scenario: the coincidence of a sales decline with the

explosion of ultra-low-

cost Japanese production from Toyota's new

Derby plant, Honda at

Business Focus, The

Sunday Times tomorrow

Swindon and Nissan.

spending and recovery in housing investment under the government's Y10,700 billion (£55.2 billion) emergency economic stimulative package an-nounced in August would have desirable effects on the slumping economy in the first half of 1993-4.

"In the second half of fiscal 1993, private sector demand. including consumer spending, should perk up domestic demand and become an en-

Another EPA official said that Japan's domestic demand was forecast to contribute a 3.4 per cent rise in GNP in 1993-4, although external demand would make for a 0.1 per cent drop.
The government is due to

officially announce its forecast other conditions after the cabinet endorses the data at an extraordinary meeting on

Van Miert set to remould competition policy

Brittan tipped for EC trade job

SIR Leon Brittan is hotly tipped to become the European Community's external trade commissioner, an ap-pointment that would almost certainly leave his present portfolio, competition, in the hands of Karel Van Miert, 2 socialist.

The Belgian commissioner for transport, credit, invest-ment and consumer affairs has clashed with Sir Leon for allowing multimillion pound state aid for ailing airlines. He would be likely to remould the EC's competition policy, bringing it more in line with industrial policy and the wishes of France.

The change will not be confirmed until Tuesday, when Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, announces his леw line-up, but reliable Brussels sources are certain there will be no last-minute surprises. Sir Leon had made little secret of his wish to move to a high-profile external relations job, and Mr Van Miert has eyed the competition portfo-lio for some time. Experts —



"Market-oriented socialist": Karel Van Miert

as a "socialist of the marketoriented kind" - say the Belgian, a consumate consensus politician, would never have made a decision like Sir Leon's in the affaire de Havilland in the autumn of last year, which lost the former Thatcherite any standing with the French government.
Sir Leon prevented ATR, the Franco-Italian commuter in the plane-making business.

public sector is likely to The portfolio of Martin Bangemann, the industry commissioner, will probably expand to include the allocation of research and development money; he and Mr Van Miert may soon be pursuing interventionist policies that would be anathema to Sir

over Canada's de Havilland. saying it would give the

company dominance in the

"He is a much subtler

politician than Sir Leon," said

one source. "He would never

EC market.

M Delors wants more EC cash to be pumped into R&D. The changeover will allow Sir Leon to bring his liberal trade thinking on to the world stage. He will take over Gatt negotiations from the Dutchman Frans Andriessen, and is likely to put the bite back into

champions". France's huge

have taken a decision like with America. He will also be dealing with the nations of the former Soviet bloc, overseeing aid

ment securities to make head-way in thin conditions during early trading. Prices reached the appropriate level to en-able the Bank of England to of competition. The aignifi-cance of Mr Van Miert taking over cannot be overestimated. supply small amounts of stock from the three taplets, total-Sir Leon's attempts to dereguling £700 million, issued last late state monopolies in telecommunications and energy week. But prices generally showed little sign of mainmay be abandoned, and more state aid may be allowed taining the early pace and

Brokers said most of the support was selective as institutions continued squaring

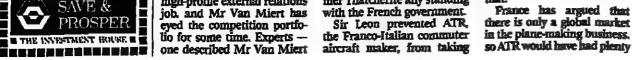
BRITISH FUNDS

up their year-end positions. This week's economic news has failed to provide any hard evidence that the long-awaited recovery may be under way. As a result, most investors are unwilling to chase the market sharply higher until positive economic news is In the futures market, only

7.500 contracts were completed as the March series of the long gilt closed a couple of ticks down. In the cash mar-ket. Exchequer 9 per cent 2012 finished four ticks down at £10131/32, while at the shorter end Exchequer 92 per cent 1998 ended two ticks easier at £109³/₁₆.

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The outgoing chairman of Lloyds Bank looks back on his career and tells

Neil Bennett of his fears for the future

ir Jeremy Morse ought to be basking in the warm twilight of an illustrious career. Instead, he is worried about leaving an industry, on February 5, after almost 40 years. when its reputation is near an alltime low and its future is uncertain. He voiced his fears in his

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presidential address to the Chartered Institute of Bankers last week. and in an interview as he prepared his message. The speech was titled "In praise of banking", but was anything but upbeat. Sir Jeremy attacked the techno-

logical revolution in the industry, which, he said, had increased errors, unsettled staff and alienated the public. He reminisced about the days of cross-subsidisation, when customers unwittingly paid for their banking services by keep-ing interest-free funds in the current accounts. Finally, he called for an emphasis on fundamental values of honesty, reliability, fairness and professional

competence. What makes this 'My great Luddite rallying cry more remarkdisappointment comes from the is to be chairman of a leaving at a bank that has spearheaded intime when things novation within the industry. Lloyds was the are so gloomy' first bank to offer

interest on current accounts, to charge an annual fee on credit cards, and, most important, was one of the earliest to plunge into the life assurance market with the acquisition of Abbey Life.

Now, Sir Jeremy questions many of these changes, and even says Lloyds is too concentrated on the British market, even though it has spent most of a decade shedding its overseas interests. If this is not a conversion on the road to Damascus. Sir Jeremy is certainly pausing at the threshold of his office as he

At first meeting, Sir Jeremy comes across as an amiable buffer who needs to be humoured. But he is nothing of the kind. Underneath is an implacable manager who issues orders in the most mellow tones but never leaves room for

him to tread the delicate line between government and com-

merce that every bank chairman must do. After 15 years, he is the longest-standing chairman of the world's top 50 banks and has served opposite five chairman at Midland and four at Barclays.

He has much to be proud of from his leadership of Lloyds. He steered the bank away from near-destruction at the height of the Latin American debt crisis in the earlyeighties. Then he avoided many of the pitfalls of the eighties and concentrated on solid, low-risk businesses such as life assurance. Today, by a mixture of luck and sound management, Lloyds is the country's most profitable bank, ahead of both Barclays and National Westminster, which are more than twice the size.

Sir Jeremy said: "I have had quite a long enough stint for the bank and I am happy to have seen the Latin American debt affair through to where you can see a conclusion. My great disappoint-

ment is to be leaving when gloomy, when it time for people in the branches." In his address, he made it clear how low the reputation of the banking system has sunk because of the recession and

its basic service. "The two have produced the biggest wave of antibank sentiment in Britain since the 1930s. As then, the government has been happy to find someone else to share the blame for the hardships in the economy."

Perhaps Sir Jeremy's most surprising attack is against the technology Lloyds and the other banks have invested in so heavily. "Our service has deteriorated, there are errors and it sometimes seems impersonal When I began, there was almost a handwritten system that had very few errors because it was run by highly intelligent people. An awful lot of our errors occur today through the interaction between men and machines."

The technology, he feels, has devalued the bank's staff, forced' some to switch unwillingly from processing payments to selling



Listening in to grass-roots opinion: Sir Jeremy Morse is well aware of what the public says about Lloyds and other banks

ments, staff work harder than their predecessors and have less job security... The overall impact has been too big to manage without damaging both customer relation-ships and the public image of

Just as unexpected is Sir Jeremy's admission that as chairman of an organisation that has spent hundreds of millions of pounds on technology, he does not know how to use a word processor, one of his ambitions for retirement is that his wife will teach him.

Sir Jeremy's criticisms of the trend in banks towards selling products rather than providing an all-encompassing service also stands in stark contrast to the developments in Lloyds in the past five years. In his address to the institute, he seemed to question the others surplus to requirements. "In life assurance and pensions, which about the Wolverhampton disaster, the Latin American debt

have pursued since the mid-

Some [additions] are no more than conventional diversifications but others are avowed attempts to move away from banking towards other financial services which are perceived as more profitable or less risky. The traditional banker who is fairly well inured to being attacked from outside ... has also to face this attack from within."

Although Sir Jeremy obviously pines for a return to some of the traditional values of banking, he is not uncritical of the past. When he joined Lloyds as deputy chairman in 1975, the board had more than 30 directors and had to deal with all domestic matters and take reports from the international board. "The agenda was wildly confused. We would move from a branches and supporting depart- all the banks, particularly Lloyds, branch," he said. The most funda- crisis in 1982, five years after Sir But you can never be a good banker

mental change he has witnessed in banking is that its management now treat it as a business. "When I arrived, there was not enough profit-consciousness. Half of the people in the domestic bank

thought it was a public service."

But while he has strived to introduce greater commercial awareness in the bank throughout his chairmanship, he now stresses that banking has some special qualities and that its managers must be as aware of those differences as they understand commer-

cial reality. "There are very few special qualities, but the most important is that bankers deal in other people's money. People expect more from those who handle their money."

Nevertheless, Lloyds has prospered by being run as a business. Jeremy took office. Today, he is unrepentant about Lloyds' lending in Latin America, which left the bank with bad sovereign loans of more than £4 billion and, in 1990, plunged the bank to a loss of £715 million, the largest ever at a British bank "I don't feel any shame about that because we were the bank on the ground," he said. Lloyds lent through the Bank of Latin and

South America, its subsidiary. "Our dollar lending in those countries had a far higher proportion of good customers who could have repaid in local currency. When the market went belly up, we got double our share of bad loans. But we got the strategy right," he

Sir Jeremy admits that, at the height of the Latin American debt crisis, he feared it would destroy not keep our name in the market. cannot be a good rider unless you have fallen off." The board realised the only way it could ever provide against the loans was to generate profits from personal and small companies banking, its core businesses. "We knew we had better not take any risks elsewhere, and we missed all sorts of bunkers by that decision, like stockbroking and property lending." Admittedly. some bunkers were missed by hick rather than judgment, such as the bank's failed bid for Standard Chartered in 1986.

loyds became a pre-emi-nent personal bank, and earned the reserves to provide against its sovereign loans - but only just, It made the main provisions in 1990, as the domestic recession was already gathering pace and domestic bad debts were climbing. If the recession had begun a year earlier, the bank would have struggled.

Throughout Lloyds' recovery, Sir Jeremy was partnered by Brian Pitman, the bank's hard-nosed but brilliant chief executive. Sir Jeremy is a strong believer that any large bank needs two leaders. "I have always worked on the two hands on the tiller principle. It does not matter what the people are called or the division of their duties but they should both bring a contribution to the strategy. A duo works particularly well for a bank because there

are so many pitfalls to avoid."

Sir Jeremy is the aesthetic, the academic strategist, while Mr Pitman is a follower of popular culture, a jazz sexophonist with a voracity for statistics and detail. The duo has been immensely productive, but there has never been much personal warmth between them. At times they have clashed on fundamental issues. "There is a tension of ideas between us. But if you are different you get enormous strength in bringing different points together."

The key of Sir Jeremy's farewell message is a call for more balance and moderation in the banking industry. Balance between the interests of customers and shareholders, balance between innovation and service and, above all, modera-

tion in lending. He summed up his speech in the Merchant Taylor's Hall last week with acknowledgment of the many contradictions in banking that must be tackled by his successors. "Banking combines elements of trade and profession, art and science, of tradition and innovation. It is more concerned with people and less with figures than other financial callings... I am proud to have been a banker for

Thames focuses on independent role

THE failure of Thames TV to win the Channel 5 franchise, despite the lack of other runners, effectively relegates the group from big league broadcaster to the role of independent television producer, despite its 15 per cent holding in UK Gold, the

satellite channel.
It is particularly piquant. therefore, that Trilion, one of the small independents in the TV sector, should have chosen the same day to announce the suspension of share dealings.
Thames shares plunged

22p to 158p on the news from the Independent Television Commission, which seems a little harsh given that the broad reasoning behind the ITC decision was that the service was not sufficiently profitable on the basis of the business plan drawn up by the participants. There are two views in the City on independent producers. The bears claim that their troubles in the past cannot but worsen given the squeeze on advertising

The more optimistic, in spite of the troubles of Trilion, suggest that the legal requirement of the big broadcasters to use independents, coupled with the rise of other broadcasting media such as cable and satellite, mean an increasing amount of the software that reaches our screens must come from out-

fits such as Thames. Richard Dunn, the Thames chief executive, has suggested revenue of more than £100 million from the company next year after its ITV franchise ends. Assets comprise the UK Gold stake, the programme library and the production company and facilities in Teddington, south

west London. Guy Lamming at James Capel thinks Thames will make £11.5 million before tax in 1993, putting the shares on a forward multiple of little more than ten. The immediate upside may be limited, but the shares are a long-term speculative buy.



Revenue forecast: Richard Dunn, chief executive of Thames TV, is looking for £100m

Asda

IT makes a change to receive a pleasant surprise from Asda but it may be too early for investors to get excited. Asda, while pleased that the first six months of a three-year recovery plan have worked, is cautious. Patrick Gillam, the chairman, points to the competitive pressure of 35 rival superstore openings in the first half. Archie Norman, the chief executive, says the grocery market has been flat for the last four

months and expects it to remain so for the rest of this year. He adds that, like everyone, Asda is "walking up the down escalator.

Asda claims, however, to have enjoyed like-for-like sales increases in line with the rest of the industry since April of this year, instead of lagging by 2 points as has been the recent tradition. Productivity has also improved by 10 per cent as measured by sales per employee. The headcount has fallen from 37,331 to 35,561

over the half year. Now the group has a stable balance sheet to work from. Borrowings are down to

E472 million, or 39 per cent of shareholders funds, against £678 million in May and £931 million as the £357 million cash call was kunched in October 1991. Debts have fallen to the extent that a provision of £17.5 million has been made against interest swaps that are no longer needed. Asda revealed a new £300 million syndicated facility with its banks yesterday, but inves-tors should bear in mind that most of Asda's debt is fixed long term at 10.5 per cent.

Borrowings were helped by a £69.1 million profit from the MFI stake and £26.2 million from the sale of surplus sites.
But under the recovery

plan, Asda does not see itself building new stores on fresh sites until year three. It can only watch as Tesco, J Sainsbury and Argyll open up, and is forced to increase marketing spending and perhaps squeeze margins to defend against local com-

Even so, there are advantages. It forces Asda to spend on upgrading its existing stores. Capital spending of £130 million is expected over

Mr Gillam compares the present rush to spend in new food retail stores to the investment by oil companies in the seventies and eighties that has left them with thin returns. As the former chairman of BP Oil, he should

Analysts expect Asda to deliver £130 million before tax for the full year, against previous expectations of just over £100 million. At £130 million, earnings would be 3.9p, pointing to a total dividend of about 1.35p, and putting the shares on a yield of 2.95 per cent and a mulitiple of 15.6 at yester-

day's price of 61p, up 7½ p.
The City is divided on how to rate Asda. The optimists say the Asda brand is not as dead as people thought it was and that the board has plenty of scope for cost cuts to boost cash flow. They have put the shares back on the buy list and see a target of 75p for the shares over the next six mouths.

Against that, those in the City who had previously raied Asda as a recovery stock are now sated and rate the shares as a hold. Given the competition and recession in the grocery business, best to rate the shares merely as a

Peking accuses Jardine of conspiracy on HK future

FROM REUTER IN HONG KONG

PEKING turned its fury on Hong Kong's oldest colonial conglomerate, sending the stock market tumbling again. The official Xinhua news agency accused British-con-trolled Jardine Matheson of conspiring with Chris Patten.

for democratic reform before Analysts said Xinhua's at-Hong Kong returns to China The attack wiped another 136.8 points off the Hang Hong Kong's business com-Seng index, which has been battered in recent weeks by on Mr Panen to drop his proposals before they go to the Legislative Council in Februpressure from Peking aimed at forcing Mr Parten into dropping his proposals. The index ended 2.6 per cent

Jardine shares plunged by HK\$2.75, to HK\$42.75. That means they have lost almost 14 per cent of their value in just two days. "We have no comment," said Neil McNamara, Jardine's general manager. "All we can do is business as usual." Xinhua did not name Jardine, but by referring to an old British conglomerate that sold opium to China, it made its target

the governor, in his campaign

in 1997.

down at 5,192.66.

The agency described Jardine as "a bad element" in Hong Kong's business community and a "looter" that earned two thirds of its revenue from Hong Kong and

The Jardine Group, now a trading empire ranging from property through luxury car dealerships to supermarkets, grew out of the 19th century China opium trade.

tack appeared to be part of Peking's campaign to frighten munity into putting pressure ary. Mr Patten made a veiled

attack on China for trying to undermine local business

confidence. "I would never and will never do anything which un-dermines that confidence," he told reporters. "I would certainly never attack an important Hong Kong employer, an employer which looks after the well-being and living stan-dards of many families and

many individuals." Business confidence has taken a battering since Mr Pattern announced his proposals in October. Earlier this month, the Hang Seng index plunged 17 per cent in four days, when Peking threatened that it would scrap, after 1997, business contracts signed by the colonial government if China

did not approve of them.

Jardine has drawn Peking's wrath with a series of moves indicating an apparent lack of confidence in Hong Kong's administration after the 1997

return to China.

The group shifted its legal domicile to Bermuda in 1984. This year, it moved its primary stock market listing to London. Analysts said the conglomerate was unwilling to accept Hong Kong as its

Ford expected to lose record \$6bn

FROM PHILLP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK out the \$681.4 million profit

Ford made in the first nine

The company's projected

annual loss is well ahead of the

previous industry record, held

by General Motors, the rival

car company, which last year lost \$4.5 billion. GM's losses

were incurred on operations

and not as part of any account-

months of this year.

ing rule change.

FORD which is cutting 10,000 European jobs next year, is almost certain to end this year more than \$6 billion in the red, a record for any

American company.

The biggest debit will be a \$7.5 billion provision for future health and pension costs, a charge it must take either in one year or over the next 20 years as part of new accounting rules. Ford will also charge \$419 million as the cost of cutting 7,200

forecast a loss in the final three

months of this year and its

combined costs for health and

jobs cuts will more than wine

Ford has yet to make the provisions and it will be the company's second consecutive hourly paid workers and 2,555 salaried staff, mostly in year in the red. Last year, it lost \$2.26 billion on sales of Britain and Germany. \$88.27 billion. The company has already

The company has narrowed the gap outside America where nine-month losses fell from \$764 million to \$218 million. But it has been badly

affected by the European currency crisis, making cars in strong currency countries and losing sales in those with weak currencies, because the foreign exchange makes its forecourt prices uncompetitive.

Ford believes Britain, which is its most important European market but where sales have halved since 1989, has bottomed and should produce better results next year.

Lee lacocca, the Chrysler chairman, said its board will decide in February whether to recognise a required non-cash charge for retiree health care benefits in the fourth quarter of 1992 or the first quarter of 1993. Chrysler estimates a transition obligation of \$3 billion to \$4 billion.

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WORLD MARKETS

Nikkei recovery continues

Tokyo — Shares continued their rebound and closed firmer for the second day. Buying by pension funds and foreign investors combined with yearend window-dressing to lift prices, brokers said. The Nikkei index closed above its 200-day moving average for the first time this year. "Finishing above the 200-day line is obviously good for senti-ment," said Masahiko Tsuyuzaki, of Tachibana Securities. The Nikkei index rose by 242.83 points, to 17.680.74, with about 300 million shares

□ New York — Early trading pushed prices higher, and turnover quickly rose above 80

million shares as a result of by foreign institutions, brokers "triple witching". Traders said the buoyancy was expected, but might be cut short by profit-taking. Towards the end of the morning, the Dow Jones industrial average was 7.3 points up at 3,276.53; gainers led losers by 11 to two.

Frankfurt — Short covering, linked to the expiry of options and futures contracts, lifted the market. The Dax index climbed by 15.87 points, to 1,492.04. Traders said prices for the 15 shares with Deutsche Terminbörse options led the mid-session

upturn ☐ Singapore — Shares points up at 1.515.7, off its jumped on last-minute buying high of 1.517.6. (Reuter)

THE TIMES PORTFOLIO DEALING SERVICE

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

said. "There is talk of indexlinked buying by foreign investors," a bank-based broker said, adding that prices should hold firm in the near term, on mildly bullish sentiment. The Straits Times industrial index rose by 23.49 points, to 1,491.80, on volume of 76.74

million shares. Sydney — A good interim result from BHP, a market leader, helped shares to close higher across the board. Brokers said international interest had also helped to spur the market along. The All Ordinaries index ended 16.2

Share prices soar as futures expire

THE empiry of the December series of the financial futures was the signal for investors to embark on a last-minute Christmas spending spree, with share prices coming within a whisker of their all-time high.
The FT-SE 100 index went

from strength to strength as the afternoon wore on, encouraged by an opening rise of more than 20 points in the Dow Jones industrial average in New York. It eventually closed at the top, with a rise of 49.4 at 2,789.7, only 2.3 shy of its best ever level, achieved on December 1. Almost 1 billion shares had changed hands by the close, with the figure partly inflated by bed and breakfast transactions to establish year-end tax losses.

index would breach the 3.000 level early in the new year. Sentiment was also cheered by the latest CBI survey showing rising order books, while the balance of payments was

Brokers said the rush for

shares was signalled by the expiry of the financial futures,

with investors encouraged by

brokers' predictions that the

boosted by an unexpected surge in invisible items. Asda, the supermarket chain, celebrated better than expected half-year figures with a leap of 72p to 61p as a massive 98 million shares changed hands. Pre-tax profits were up from £10 million to \$46 million, helped by lower interest charges. The group has already said that its recovery programme may take up

Rival Tesco advanced 8p to 253p after paying £175.6 million for Catteau, the RECOVERY

BICC touched 337p before finishing the day 20p dearer at 334p as institutions confin-ued picking up stock in the hope that the first signs of recovery were in view. County Northers the stockhooles court NatWest, the stockbroker, says trading and cashflow have started improving and has increased its pre-tax profit

European Motor Holdings rose 12p to 97p with one broker seeking 300,000 shares for a client. With marketmakers prepared to make a market in only 5.000, the order may still be incomplete.

forecast for 1993 from £111 million to £131 million. It has already pencilled in £151 million for 1994. County has been taking the view for some time that a maintained dividend outweighed the risks of property write-offs and provisions relating to BICC's inBICC has been talking to a number of brokers in recent weeks. Thames Television, the in-

building the Channel tunnel.

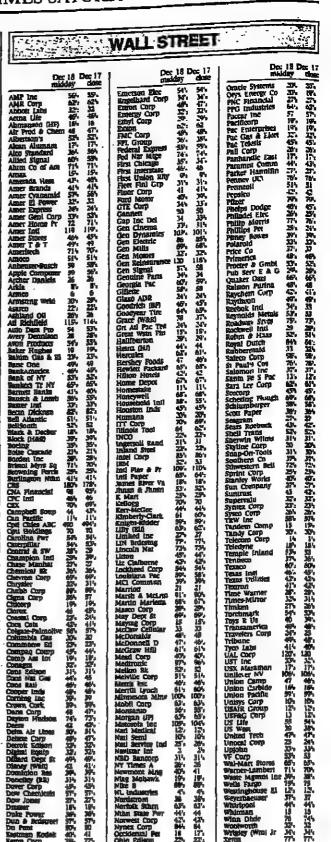
dependent television broadcaster, tumbled 22p to 158p after its sole bid for the fifth national television network was rejected by the Indepen-dent Television Commission. The ITC said the Thames led consortium had failed to guarantee sufficient financial backing and satisfactory revenue

Thames also loses its independent broadcasting franchise for the London area on January 1, after a successful bid by Carlton Communications. Cariton responded to the loss of potential rivalry from Thames with a rise of 21p to

Shares of Trillion, the tele-vision production facilities group, were suspended at 3p, pending clarification of the company's financial position. Geest, the banana distribu-

tor, leapt 53p to 343p and Fyffes 10p to 80p, on proposals by the European Commisto impose quota restrictions on the number of bananas being imported from South America. The move, if implemented, would be good news for both companies and help protect their markets.

British Aerospace extended this week's run with a jump of 14p to 167p amid talk of a lucrative contract from Japan to be announced soon.



HAMBRO CLEARING LIMITED A LOW COST SHARE SELLING SERVICE FOR MOST UK SECURITIES PRIVATISATIONS (as issed below) - For a £10.00 fee per stock, for privatisation members holding the same stock (same surname, same address) can sell their shaplus £2.00 for each additional member up to a maximum of 4 members. OTHER SECURITIES - For a £10.00 minimum fee or 0.4% commission over a Hambro Clearing will sell your shares the day after recal of your signed cerebicate/or where appropriate the separal transfer from A contract note confirming sale details and a cheque pe HOW TO SELL 1. Fill in the coupon signed by all starsholders and send by first dasp spot together with the relevant certificatios) to Hambro Clearing Ltd, London address below, but first check to see if the relevant share certificates have a form of brancher on the back. If there is a form then the registered holders are to sign where it is marked. If not, upon receipt of your certificates, Hambro Clearing will send you a separate transfer which is to be signed by the registered holder(s). Your shares cannot be solled until the signed transfer form has been returned signed. British Telecom (1st & 2nd Issue), British Airweys, Rolls Royce, BAA &/or bonus, British Steel, TSB &/or bonus, British Gas &/or bonus, Abbey National, BP, PowerGen, Scot Power, Nat Power, Scot Hydro Electricity 12 Regional Electricity Companies and 10 Regional Water Compan CLOS 30 OT 200TE HAMBRO CLEARING LIMITED, LLOYDS COURT, 1 GOODMANS YARD, LONDON E1 8AT **WINDLEWAY - MERCE HEND CONSTULTA** ed via frutbret UK Lad's matched dealer UNIT-UNKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

volvement in the consortium

Tadpole Technology (65) 179 BTR Warrants 1997 Tepnel Diagnostics (120) 192 Critchley Group (220) Poreign & Col PEP Inv Tst 102 ... Wetherspoon (J.D) (160) 200 Hoare Gvtt Sir Index (100) 99 ... Hunters Armley (90) Jos Holdings Capital 35 +2 Jos Holdings Income 90 ... 1084 ... Jos Zero Dtv Pf National Express (165) 182 ... Prime People Warrants 112 ...

RIGHTS ISSUES Learmonth & Bure n/p (100) 27 ... Longton nato (85) Property Trust p/p (25) 13 -1 Seton Healthcare n/p (240) 53 +6 Tibbett & Brit n/p (465) 145 ...

Md Other 45 %

MAJOR CHANGES

1025p (+16p) Royal Bk of Scot 210p (+11p) . 634p (+12p) Bass Berkeley Group 313p (+12p) BICC 334p (+20p) Wm Baird ... 231p (+23p) 201p (+15p) Blue Circle A McAlpine Boots 528p (+16p) . 113p (+15p) Antologasta .. 698p (+15p) . 202p (+15a) Persimmon ... Redland :371p (+17p) Courtaulda . MICHAEL CLARK | Wilson Bowden 357p (+14p)

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CAR.	408.39 419.40 509.50	585.60 434.40 445.40 542.10 445.80 123.60 662.70	- 7.30 - 6.50	Casts Lnors-Linked	169.01 141.10	177.90	+ 0.17 - 0.10
RL	418.80 304.10	445.80 123.60 662.70	• 7.70 • 2.00	Plant Interest Mixed UK Equity	202.70 205.70	148.50 167.50 213.40 216.50 204.50	- 0.40 + 1.90 - 6.00
Mg	(11.60 (54.80 120.40 101.40	119.00 163.00 125.10 108.10	- 0.60 • 0.60 • 1.10 4.58	American American Japan European	194.30 217.50 187.10	196.90	+ 0.40 + 0.40
· 1)	96.30	COL CAL LANGE RIG		Pacific Technology Curricy/Currie)	193,10 249,30 267,20 201,20	209.30 262.40 281.30 271.80	- 1.50 - 0.20 - 0.20
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e	135,66 111,60 101,00	118.00	- 100 - 130 - 040	Fixed Interest Index Linked Deposit	214,60 176,40	185.40	- 0.70
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4	178.10 192.80 138.60	10.40	• 0.30 • 0.10	Inder-Linked Pd International Pd North American Property Fund UK Equity	119.10	226.70	- 0.90 - 0.80
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Edited by Sara McConnel

Deep division over back-up scheme in the wake of Maxwell fraud

Pressure intensifies for pension compensation

PRESSURE on the government to introduce a compensation fund for members of company pension schemes as part of a radical overhaul of pension regulation intensified this week. The industry, however, remains deeply divided over how wide ranging any compensation scheme ought

Many people who find their pensions are underfunded, or who have lost benefits through maladministration, may not be covered if the government accepts proposals for more limited compensation.

The Pension Law Review Committee received the last of more than 1,000 submissions this week as the deadline passed for comments on a wide-ranging questionnaire The comments received from all sectors of the pensions industry, unions and mem-bers of the public, are likely to form the basis for a new pensions regime.

The committee was set up under Professor Roy Goode this summer after it was discovered that £500 million was missing from the pension funds of companies controlled by Robert Maxwell. Only £140 million of this has so far been remieved. Those running and administering company

MAJON UNIVOES

schemes insist that Maxwell was an aberration and that most pension schemes are honestly and properly run. However, the submissions to the Goode committee demonstrate a growing concern that occupational pensions are insufficiently regulated and that scheme members have no financial redress outside the courts, even if employers are found to have been perpetrating fraud.

The Goode committee has been told by the various bodies making submissions that there should be a single, strong statutory regulator for occupational occupational pension schemes. This would have the power to take over the admin-istration of a pension scheme, or appoint an independent trustee. It would also take over the duties of the pensions ombudsman, the occupational pensions board - which supervises schemes to check that they conform with the regulations — and the pensions registry, which traces the pension rights of scheme mem-

Stronger supervision and regulation of pension schemes would, in theory, reduce the need for a compensation scheme, as would compulsory minimum funding of the scheme so that there was enough money to pay the promised benefits. Submissions to the committee said

By SARA MCCONNELL

that if funding fell below the minimum level, employers should be obliged to make up the shortfall. However, John Quarrell, partner in Nabarro Nathanson and one of the advisers involved in unearthing funds missing from Maxwell pen-sions, said: "There is nothing that can be done to stop a man who is determined to do

something regardless of the law. A man like Maxwell thought, and I believe this, that he was beyond and above the law." A compensation scheme is needed as a final safety net, the pensions indus-try believes. Unlike other in-vestors saving for their futures. members of final salary occupational pension schemes are not at present covered by any compensation scheme. The only limited redress

could come from the Investors' Compensation Scheme if an investment management company, regulated by the Investment Managers' Regulatory Organisation (Imro) handling pension fund money, were declared in default. The maximum payout under the ICS is, however,

only £48,000 per person. Those whose employers have set up pension schemes with insurance companies would be covered by the Policyhold-ers' Protection Act if the insurance company investing the pension money became insolvent or where there was fraud or maladministration. The Policyholders' Protection Board would pay up to 90 per cent of benefits to policy-

Similar limits are being suggested for members of company schemes. But bodies such as the Confederation of British Industry, as well as many individual employers, argue that a compensation scheme for company schemes should be restricted to paying out if there were proven fraud and that any payout under such a scheme should be limited. It should also be partially underwritten by the

The National Association of Pension Funds (NAPF) made a last-minute retreat this week in the face of threats from members to resign if the Association told the Goode committee that there should be compensation if members did not get their benefits because of underfunding or maladministration. In its sub-

mission to the Goode committee, the CBI said that it was "neither fair nor practical" for a compensation scheme to pay out to employees whose schemes had been underfunded or where maladministration had occurred, since this would mean good employers subsidising bad.

There is also concern that less scrupulous employers would be encouraged by the backstop of a compensation scheme to invest recklessly and perhaps to misappropriate

Others say that there is often a thin dividing line between fraud and other sorts of maladministration, and it could be difficult to decide when the compensation scheme should apply if it were limited. John Quarrell said: "It is almost impossible to restrict a compensation scheme to fraud. We all sympathise with the cry Why do the good have to subsidise the bad, but this is

naive." A full compensation scheme would be expensive for schemes to fund. Sean Hand, head of the pensions unit at Cameron Markby Hewitt, the firm of solicitors, said the expense of paying out could be reduced if both trustees and assets had to be compulsorily insured as a pre-condition of membership of the compensa-

tion scheme.

One way of paying for a scheme would be to build up a fund with regular compulsory contributions. Ian Aitken, partner in R Watson, the actuary, and chairman of the Pensions Management Institute working party on pension law reform, said an annual contribution of 1200 of 1 per cent of the assets of all pension schemes would produce a compensation fund of £100 million in six years. Levies could also be charged when necessary. Another way of funding it would be to levy all schemes if one got into trouble and qualified for a payout under the compensation

Time is running out for elderly GRE investors

policy is now getting beyond a joke. Some insurers appear to want to do everything in their power to prolong the process of getting claims paid and sorted. Their refusal to admit mistakes in many cases forces investors to spend much needed funds on solicitors bills and even, in some cases, on court action. Worryingly, insurers do not always make it clear that policyholders can go to the ombudsman, whose services are independent and free.

The latest casualties of such anitudes are 500 elderly investors who took out home income plans from InterCity, a former tied agent of Guardian Royal Exchange. Thousands of elderly investors who were sold high-risk investment bond-based home income plans are still battling with insurance companies and agents for

While they fight, demands for repayments on mortgages taken out to fund investment bonds arrive with frightening

regularity and the value of the bonds, intended to provide enough to pay the mortgage and give people an income, falls still further. Some people who cannot pay the mort-gage face having their homes repossessed.

The insurance ombudsman has told GRE that its offers of

compensation to Inter-City clients were inadequate. The compen-sation offered by GRE was, indeed, mean. It took no account of the cost of taking out and servicing the mortgage but merely offered investors the option of getting the premiums paid into the bond back, plus interest. Alternatively,

they could hold onto the bond; not a very generous offer if it was falling in value. Any award made by the insurance ombudsman would have been substantially more than this because it would have covered the cost of redeeming the mortgage, as well as distress payments.

None of the letters offering compensation from GRE so far seen by the ombudsman makes it clear that investors have a right to take their case to the ombudsman. It is hard to escape the conclusion that GRE moved promptly to make minimal compensation offers in order to get shot of the investors and remove any likelihood of them taking their claim elsewhere. Unfortunately, many are likely to be precluded from having their case reopened because they took legal advice before signing to accept the offer.

GRE says it told investors about the ombudsman. It also argues that the

nsurance companies' increasing reluc-tance to pay out proper compensation published new guidelines over the compensation that companies should offer

compensation that companies should offer home income plan investors. The guide-lines were published, however, because the ombudsman was concerned about how little companies were paying.

Talks are continuing. GRE is questioning whether it should make improved offers to conform with the new guidelines, but at least one other life office in a similar situation is offering more, so it is clearly not impossible. The ombudsman will not not impossible. The ornbudsman will not guarantee people will receive more morey but is starting a series of informal talks with investors, travelling to them if

The least GRE can now do is make these elderly investors an improved offer. They have already been waiting too long.

Code of complaint

Banks still have a long way to go before they are loved by their customers. The Consumers' Association this week called

the banks' approach to implementing the new Code of Banking Practice "unacceptably slow" and their inter-pretation "parsimonious". The main problem, according to the CA, is that banks, with some honourable exceptions, have failed to either to their customers or to their staff. The code was meant to present the banks in a more accommodating and friendly light by set-ting out their responsibilities to customers and what they could expect. It should have been welcomed as an opportunity by banks keen to avoid more neg-

McCONNELL ative publicity about un-reasonable charges, ad-ministrative inefficiency and sheer bloody-

COMMENT

SARA

At the moment, banks are not helping themselves. By not implementing the code fully, they are demonstrating some of the arrogance for which they are disliked by their customers. If head office and branch managers do not communicate with their branch staff, the staff cannot communicate with their customers. This breeds resentment and, in turn, a bad press,

The odd thing is, negative publicity clearly wornes them. Branch staff at one major clearing bank have been asking head office why banks get a bad press. The bank went to commendable lengths to make a training video answering some of the staffs constions. the staff's questions.

There needs to be much more of this soul searching both at branch level and head office.



The balloon goes up: supported by Doug Taylor, Bill Day and Roger Lyons

Date set for pension fight with Lucas

A HIGH court battle between Lucas Industries and 70 of its pensioners over the ownership of a £150 million pension surplus is due to begin on January 22 next year (Liz Dolan writes).

Pensioner Doug Taylor and colleagues from the Central Birmingham branch of the Lucas Pensioners' Association, are claiming that the money taken from the fund belonged to the fund members, not to the company. Their battle forms part of a wider campaign involving trade unions and other pensioners' groups that want pension fund assets to be used for the sole benefit of pension scheme

Mr Taylor, Roger Lyons, general secretary of the Manufacturing Science Finance union, and Bill Day, national pensions officer with the GMB general union, are pictured, left, at the launch of the Charter for Pension Fund Democra-

The charter calls for the total separation of pension funds assets from those

It also wants a majority of trustees of any occupational pension fund to be democratically appointed by members of the scheme, and demands that pensioners should have the right to representation on trustee boards.

The charter forms the basis of submissions by both the MSF and GMB to the

Pension Law Review Committee.
Roger Lyons said: "Our response is fundamentally about democracy. We are urging the Goode committee to recommend a legal framework that will prevent employers dipping their hands into pension schemes whenever it suits them and give members the right to run their own pension funds in their own best

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Switch from final salary schemes causes concern

CONCERN is growing about the number of employers who are cutting staff pension costs by transferring employees from final salary schemes to higher-risk money purchase plans. The companies claim they are trying to save employees from punishing increases in contribution levels that will follow forthcoming changes in the law governing final salary

However, many in the pensions industry are convinced employers are using higher costs to employees as an excuse to free themselves from unwanted obligations. Final salary schemes are more expensive and restrictive to employers than money purchase schemes, but are often a much better bet for employees. Frank Field MP, chairman of the House of Commons social security committee, this week expressed concern at the increasing number of com-panies following this route. In a memorandum to the pension law review committee, he said: "Money purchase schemes are what their name suggests. At the point of retirement, members will have a capital sum from which they

of those purchases can make a dramatic difference to the size of the pension an individual will receive." Evidence laid before the select committee showed that an individual who retired on October 23, 1987, would have ended up with a pension that was 30 per cent less than he or she would have earned had they retired a

week earlier, Mr Field said. Ron Spill, pensions controller at Legal & General, said: "I have a feeling that, in some cases, the decision to switch



may be welcomed by finance directors who dislike the openendedness of the final salary Companies that set up final salary schemes in the 1970s. and were then cushioned dur-

ing the 1980s by high invest-ment and redundancy gains. were now facing costs they had not bargained for, he said. "There's no doubt that there's a fair amount of switching going on, though it's mainly at the smaller companies end of the market." Final salary schemes will soon be required to increase pensions each year by the rate of inflation to a

maximum of 5 per cent.

This requirement was laid down in the 1990 Social Security Act, but cannot be implemented until a decision is made about how much extra funding will be needed to finance the equalisation of retirement ages for men and women. This depends on the outcome of a case currently going through the European courts concerning the relative pension rights of men and women employed by Coloroll, the furnishings group that went bust a few years ago. Both changes are expected to

next year. Some employees blame the government for the way in which, as they see it, the good intentions behind the new legislation have backfired. Jim Hodges, a pilot with Brymon European, the airline, said his company decided to transfer to a money purchase scheme after advisers said the changes in legislation would leave employees contributing more than 15 per cent of their salary to the final salary scheme. Mr Hodges said: "Now, instead of looking forward to a planned, comfortable retirement. I shall be left to the mercy of the bonuses and annuity rates in force on my 60th birthday.

Scottish Equitable has calculated that staff and employers could face increases in contributions of up to 70 per cent as a result of indexation and equalisation.

The actual cost to employees could be a good deal higher, in practice, as the calculations were based on the assumption that companies employed an equal number of men and women receiving similar salaries, whereas many companies actually employed many more men than women. Scottish

Recession shrinks the army of people who donate to charity

Liz Dolan and Nicola Cole show how to give if the season of good will should rekindle the urge to contribute

A STEEP decline in charitable giving during the recession has coincided with a sharp rise in demand for charitable aid, both at home and overseas. The Charities Aid Foundation, which acts as a central collection agency for charities. renorts that the total given by individuals has been falling for the past few years, but the decline appears to have intensified recently. The traditional seasonal upturn in charitable donations therefore will be even more welcome than usual this year.

People who cannot afford to give to charity and buy Christmas presents can now do the next best thing by using the CAF's new charity gift vouchers. These operate in the same way as conventional gift vouchers, and allow recipients to donate the value of the voucher to the charity of their

Those who can still afford to give directly to charity should do so as tax efficiently as possible. There are various methods available, including deeds of covenant, Gift Aid and special payroll giving schemes operated by employers. Deeds of covenant allow charities to reclaim basic rate tax on contributions, which must be made at regular intervals for at least four years. This obligation may act as a deterrent to people who are worried about income security. The CAF says many



of covenant when the signatories fall on hard times, but this concession cannot be relied on. Substantial one-off donations attract tax relief if they be worth at least £400. Requests to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to abolish this minimum have so far fallen on deaf ears.

Gift Aid and deeds of covenant can only be used for payments to a single charity, unless the money is channelled through a voucher scheme, such as the CAF's charity account. Account-holders are issued with a book of vouchers that may then be distributed to a number of charities, with the tax being reclaimed by the CAF.

Employees who subscribe to

agree to have a certain amount deducted each month from their pre-tax salaries. This method of collection is both cheap and effective, but many companies either cannot be bothered to offer it to the workforce, or are ignorant of its existence. There are a number of such schemes, the largest of which is the CAF's Give As You Earn (GAYE) scheme, with one-third of the

failures have contributed to a people who give in this way. The CAF calculates that GAYE subscribers have fallen from 134,000 to 100,000 over the past year. Nearly onethird of GAYE's receipts come from just over 4 per cent of the membership, each donating £40 a month. However, the total amount received has risen as a result of the current GAYE publicity campaign, spearheaded by the Reader's Digest, and backed by a number of companies, includ-ing British Telecom and Mori. This initiative is on target to more than double GAYE's annual income to £25 million by next June, says David Wickert, the CAF's services company director.

The Work Aid scheme, run by the Charities Trust, based in Liverpool, has suffered a 10 per cent decline in subscribers to just over 80,000 over the same period, although the amount given has risen to more than E2 million, com-pared with £1.7 million in 1991. Subscribers' donations average £3.80 a month. Regular contributions can be topped up by one-off pay-

reports that use of its voucher scheme for payroll giving goes up 20 per cent at this time of year. About 6,000 charities benefit from the various payroll schemes. The most popular are the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to-Children, Save the Children, Oxfam (whose own payroll giving unit brings in 500,000 annually), the Imperial Cancer Research Fund and the Cancer Research Campaign. More than 800 organisations offer payment facilities to staff, including the government, the BBC, Royal Mail and local authorities.

Dr Barnado's manages its own scheme. Other payroll contribution agencies include the South West Giving Associ-ation and the Motor Traders' Benevolent Fund.

Charities maintain that re ceipts would benefit substan-tially if the government agreed to make a number of changes. They want the Chancellor to substantially, the present £600 ceiling on tax-free payroll donations, and to force all em-ployers to offer staff the opportunity to give in this way. They also want the government to devise a similar scheme for the self-employed. A new publication by John Harrison, of Investment and Tax Publishing Services (TTPS), offers guidance on all aspects of tax-efficient giving. The Outline Guide to Charltable Giving and to Establishing Charitable Gift Trusts covers a wide spectrum including the effects of independent taxation of husband and wife and disaster funds. The book is rather confusingly written and is aimed at the serious donor willing to pay the notinconsiderable price of £40 (£48 after January 8). ITPS may be contacted at 0234 218740.



Window of opportunity: Derek Wanless, of NatWest, says allegations are misplaced

Banks are 'helping small firms survive'

BANKS again came under fire this week for their treatment of small business customers as chief executives were questioned by the Chancellor about whether base rate cuts had been passed on in full (Karen Woolfson writes).

However, banks reject criticism of their actions and say they have been made scapegoats for the problems small businesses face during the recession. Derek Wanless, chief executive of National Westminster Bank, told the Chancellor that the vast ma-jority of allegations about treatment of small businesses were unsubstantiated and

misplaced.
The Federation of Small Businesses said that 75,000 businesses were expected to have gone under by the end of 1992. Stephen Alambritis, the federation's parliamentary officer, said it was not likely to get significantly worse in 1993 to 1994 as businesses were likely to be given more leeway and that more businesses had failed because of the recession than had treatment by their banks. Despite this, said Mr Alambritis, "bank managers have been too quick to pull the rug. More than 30 per cent of businesses are savable." A survey from Barclays Small Business gives the opposite view, dairning that small business closures are on the decline. This is largely due to the banks sup-porting them through the

recession, says the survey. In return, the banks expect regular updates from businesses, including projections and cash flows, that can be time-consuming for a small firm to prepare, but can be its David Lavarack, head of

Bardays small business ser-vices, said: "Small businesses don't want to damage the relationship with the customer, but while large companies are sitting on bills which give them cash flow, the smaller companies are running up overdrafts." The CBI has just introduced a Prompt Payment Code, including a list of about 400 institutions that have committed themselves to mak-

may help solve the problem. Mr Lavarack advises small businesses to contact their bank as soon as they start to get into difficulties. Warning signs include the development of "hardcore" borrowing on a short-term overdraft facility which pushes the balance

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The government will pay up to two-thirds of the cost of a consultant. Application forms can be obtained from the Industry as part of the Enter-prise Initiative and the response takes between four to ten weeks.

Midland offers advice on how to reduce costs, sell unused machinery, reduce stock levels and staff, find new markets, restructure finance and obtain a capital moratorium so that only interest has to be paid on a loan for a fixed period. Midland will provide loans according to how much the owner has put into the business. Arrangement fees for loans are typically 1.25 per

NatWest and Lloyds can also bridge the gap with loans and overdrafts. Éric Swindenbank, manager of NatWest small business services, said: Keeping close to the customer, understanding the customer's problems and being sympathetic are crucial, but above all the business must be viable." Lloyds puts com-panies in touch with suitable contacts abroad for the price of

CU cuts bonus rates

COMMERCIAL Union this week became the first life office to amounce lower bonus rates for policies maturing in 1993 (Sara. McConnell writes). It has cut rates across the board on traditional ten and 25-year policies by half a percentage

Total new boruses on life policies are 6.5 per cent, down from 7 per cent, while new bonuses on pension policies are 7 per cent, down from 7.5 per cent. Bonuses on unitised fall by I per cent. Other

offices are widely expected to announce deeper cuts early in the new year, particularly on ten year policies because of poor investment performonth 10-year endowment policy will be £7,164 after January 1, instead of £7,484 this year. The new payout on a 25-year endowment with the same monthly premium will now be £62,941 instead of £65,596. The terminal bonus included in this payout is 18.4

per cent of the total on a 10year policy and 28.6 per cent

on a 25-year policy.

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6.5.1964	£6,000	\$6,000	£6,000	£50	£50	£50	£50
1964	5,796	5,796	6,230	350	319	319	357
1965	6,504	6,672	6,633	950	974	992	1,001
1966	6,120	6,360	7,094	1.550	1,456	1,487	1,693
1967	7,224	7,728	7,610	2,150	2,331	2,424	2,439
1968	9,900	10,872	8,187	2,750	3,866	4,087	3,249
1969	8,256	9,252	8,872	3,350	3,766	4,022	4,148
1970	8,376	9,636	9,634	3,950	4,411	4,784	5,132
1971	12,696	15,036	10,437	4,550	7,452	8,236	6,186
1972	15,696	18,960	11,286	5,150	9,839	11,017	7,315
1973	11,832	14,496	12,395	5,750	7,869	8,878	8,667
1974	7,224	9,036	13,810	6,350	5,225	5,956	10,294
1975	16,164	20,760	15,373	6,950	12,446	14,446	12,095
1976	15,540	20,436	17,078	7,550	12,512	14,770	14,072
1977	24,696	33,288	18,939	8,150	20,559	24,739	16,241
1978	27,396	37,812	20,817	8,750	23,390	28,689	18,482
1979	28,476	40,176	23,434	9,350	24,848	31,022	21,448
1980	32,436	46,836	27,023	9,950	28,864	36,727	25,386
1981	37,464	55,488	30,688	10,550	33,929	44,107	29,470
1982	45,672	69,288	34,667	11,150	41,981	55,699	33,931
1983	65,964	102,180	38,362	11,750	61,304	82,815	38,180
1984	90,504	142,368	42,722	12,350	84,781	116,061	43,157
1985	112,968	180,180	48,189	12,950	106,466	147,530	49,323
1986	152,352	245,892	53,615	13,550	144,214	201,966	55,510
1987	184,248	300,696	59,392	14,150	174,961	247,537	62,125
1988	203,160	335,220	65,131	14,750	193,510	276,549	68,757
1989	257,076	428,544	73,382	15,350	245,483	354,160	78,117
1990	218,640	368,880	84,046	15,950	209,307	305,380	90,123
30.11.1992	226,320 268,320	387,120 466,560	93,554 101,493 •	16,550 17,100	217,187 258,064	321,009 387,458	100,945

tes: The values shown have been calculated as if an M&G PEP and its current law treatment were available throughout the period shown. The Notes: The values shown have been calculated as if an Mac PEP and its current on presument were available immorgation me period shown. The fact regime of PEPs could change in the future. All figures include re-invested into once, MaG Divident figures show the return to the investor. The Building Society figures are based on the overage rate of a Building Society figures are based on the overage rate of a Building Society figures exclude the last Countrict Society. The major sample figures exclude the last Countrict and all payments aport from the first are made on the last business day of the month. An arvestment in MaG Dividend of C6,000 on 30th November, 1987 would be worth 19-236. November, 1992 with net income re-invested and £9,842 with gross income re-invested. An investment of £50 per month for it. 1987 £3,000 would be worth £3,345 by 30th November, 1992 with ret lectime re-invested and £3,461 with gross at "Estimated using current interest rate levels. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The price

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Societies slow to back debt advice plan

By SARA McConnell

SOME major building societies are holding back from giving their support to a new debt counselling service due to start next spring because they say they provide such a service themselves for borrowers, as well as committing funds to Citizens' Advice Bureaux and

other money advice networks.

Demand for money advice counselling far outstrips supply, said the Council of Mortgage Lenders in its monthly newsletter out yesterday. How-ever, it said: "There are very wide ranging differences in the way that mortgage lenders undertake their business... many lenders will continue to take the view that they are best placed to help solve the problems of their customers." The Woolvich and the Alliance & Leicester. and the Alliance & Leicester, the third and fourth largest building societies, said they did not attend meetings of banks, building societies, credit card companies, finance houses and utility companies held this week to gather sup-

port for the Consumer Credit Counselling Service. The Halifax, the largest society, said it had attended the meeting and would be interested to see how it developed. Abbey National, the second largest lender, attended but said the scheme needed a lot of close consideration.

The service will start next spring with a pilot scheme in Leeds. A network of 22 centres is planned, of which four will be in the London area and two in the Birmingham area. Eight counsellors and a unit manager have been recruited for the Leeds operation. It will provide free counselling and education for people in debt and arrange debt manage-ment programmes in which clients agree to make a fixed

payment each month.
The Foundation for Credit Counselling, which is running the scheme, said it needed creditors to co-operate with counsellors and treat proposals for payment sympathetically. Creditors will also be expected to rebate 15 per cent of the money they get back from clients to the service to cover costs. To tempt the building societies, which are some of the country's largest creditors, the foundation proposes a smaller fee of £100 per

case per year.

However, building societies are not convinced. The Woolwich said it was already donat-



Helping hand: Geeta Varma will be assisting with the counselling of people in debt in Leeds

ing £50,000 a year to the Money Advice Trust, a charity set up to channel private sector funds into money advice projects. It was helping Citizens' Advice Bureaux in the South East, where most of the society's branches are based, and it also counselled people in difficulties through its branches. The Alliance & Leicester said it received "half a dozen letters a week" from people proposing money advice initiatives. "It would have to be something special for us to get involved," it said. The society counsels people in its branches, but mainly on more gage arrears rather than mul-

Malcolm Huriston, chairman of the Foundation for Credit Counselling, said: "We have had a series of discussions with the building societies and we hope that in cases where a mortgage is part of a complex debt problem, some sort of fair share may be paid by the building societies." He added: "We expect to have to earn our spurs." The Leeds Permanent is the only society so far to sponsor the Leeds pilot scheme, with £30,000.

Barclaycard is the biggest sponsor of the Consumer Credit Counselling Service with a £100,000 donation. Other sponsors include GE Capital, provider of store cards (£70,000), the Registry Trust (£50,000), Equifact and CCN, credit reference agencies,

Small may be beautiful again

By RUPERT BRUCE

FOLLOWERS of shares in Britain's smaller companies have sighted a fresh dawn. They think that these shares, and the unit trusts and investment trusts that invest in them, may be on the brink of offering impressive returns again after years of disappointment.

The fortunes of smaller companies are much more dependent on the health of the British economy than larger ones because they have less overseas trade. They are also more volatile and many smaller companies have suffered badly in a recession. Today's cautious optimism is closely linked to hopes that the econo-

my is on the turn. John Houlinan, senior smaller companies analyst at Hoare Govett, believes the recession should end next year. He said: "I think the fundamentals argue for outperformance (by smaller companies) next year . . . I do not think we are talking about much growth for 1993 in a macro sense, but even given that, I think there will be an improvement because of the cost-cutting that has been going on." A pick-up in the



Houlihan: improvement

prices of shares in smaller companies is the most visible sign of optimism. In the month of November alone, the price of the Hoare Govett Smaller Companies Index — the standard yardstick for the bottom tenth of the UK stock market by value - rose by

more than 2 per cent. And when the Hoare Govett Smaller Companies Index Investment Trust, a new investment trust designed to match broadly the performance of the index, started trading last Monday, it did so at a premi-

um to the value of its underlying assets. But is this another false dawn?

David Warnock, a partner at Aberforth Partners that specialises in British smaller companies and manages two investment trusts and a unit trust, said: "This current modest hope that things will be better next year, probably has more basis in reality than the previous perceptions that recovery was on its way, because interest rates are lower."

Mr Warnock thinks crunch time will come in March, at the time of 1992 results announcements. Aberlorth Partners' recent visits to companies have indicated only that trading is not getting any worse. But even that is an improve-

ment. During the last four years of high interest rates the fortunes of smaller companies have dwindled and the Hoare Govett Smaller Companies Index has performed poorty. The worst year was 1990 when base rates averaged close to 15 per cent and the smaller companies index fell by more than 25 per cent. In the United States, shares of smaller companies went through a similar period of bad performance in the years leading up to 1991, but have

outperformed larger companies since. Ed Cimillucka, a smaller companies analyst at Shearson Lehman in New York, said the catalysis for outperformance were 'lower interest rates and excessively expensive price-tags on larger

Here, those conditions are falling into place. But it is too early to be sure of recovery. Anthony Simonian, managing director of Moorgate Investment Management, that runs two smaller companies investment trusts, thinks that smaller companies will outperform larger ones over the next two or three years. The next six months are less predictable. Historically, long-term investments in British smaller companies shares have paid off. From 1955 to 1991, the Hoare Govett Smaller Comdalnies lindex, (with Stoss city) dends reinvested), gave an average annual return of 18 per cent. It outperformed the FTA-All Share Index by an average of 4.4 per cent each

We would like to apologise to readers for the absence of the Interest Rates Roundup table this week. It has been held over due to lack of space.

From Dr Henry Campbell

Sir. I suspect that you may receive more than one letter

echoing the sentiments of Mr

Fremlin about the ability of

thieves to breach the PIN

stolen and used locally within

a few hours to ransack my

wife's and the household account. When apprehended -

by courtesy of a video camera at one bank - the thieves claimed that they found in my

wife's handbag a piece of paper with the two PIN

Quite apart from the fact

that my wife never committed the figures to paper, the idea that it is possible to find in her

handbag anything of even

remote relevance at any time.

let alone in the dark during

the small hours of the morn-

ing, is palpably ludicrous. The

bank seems, convinced that

the thieves are truthful and we

Yours faithfully,

DRYSDALE,

Aylesbury,

Bucks.

HENRY CAMPBELL

Pathologist. RAF Institute of Pathology

Letters to The Times

Business and Finance

section can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

Civilian Consultant

& Tropical Medicine.

In our case two cards were

Pin money

for thieves

Drysdale

Disillusionment has set in over my Midland Bank Pep

From A. A. Sorrell Sir. I wonder if many of your readers are as disillusioned with Peps as I am? In 1987 I bought shares in

Midland Bank in a Pep with a Midland subsidiary. When I checked in 1991 I found that the administration fees since the Pep started almost exactly matched the tax reclaimed on dividends. My broker suggested transferring the Pep to a manager with lower fees, but the "setting up" charge would have cancelled the gain for several years. In 1992 Midland reduced its dividend, but were, of course, taken over by HSBC which resulted in the value of the holding (on which the fees are based) shooting up. The result was that in the year to October, 1992 the amount of income tax recovered was £7.60, but administration fees were £72.26. I know that capital gains on

ity of Pep holders do not exceed the tax-free ceiling of £5,500. So is it worth it? Yours faithfully. A. A. SORRELL. Ranelagh. Stewarts Road. Week St Mary. Holsworthy, Devon.

Peps are free of tax, but I

imagine that the great major-

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Be brave, go to see your bank manager

From Mrs Margaret Smith Sir, In view of all the bad publicity recently regarding the way the banks are treating some of their customers, could I please ask you to put on record my experience with the Sidmouth branch of the National Westminster Bank. I am a widow, with just a pension and a little income support. I got into great difficulties with my finances, not being able to manage my affairs at all. I approached the manger of Sidmouth branch, and, together with the help of other staff, they have put me on an even keel, and I can now pay my creditors weekly with a happy heart, knowing full well

if I have any more worries I only have to pick up the phone for assistance. This proves that it is better to be brave enough to go to your bank when in difficulties with money, and not wait and hope things will go right on their own. They don't, you need advice from the experts. Perhaps I was lucky and I do advise people in circumstances like mine to do something about it. Perhaps the NatWest is special, I think

Yours faithfully MARGARET E. J. SMITH.

It all seems too hard on our parliamentary draftsmen

From Mr Shaun W. Thorpe Sir, Mr Hart seems rather hard on parliamentary draftsmen when he proposes (Let-ters, Weekend Money, December 5) to surcharge them for litigation arising from ambiguous legislation.

turies (though they should have had recourse to Hansard long before this). And as the two Houses of Parliament usually have ample opportunity to examine and amend If it were possible to draft Bills, if legislation fails, as in legislation without ambigu-

ities we would presumably not Mr Harr's case, to reflect the have needed the courts to wishes of Parliament, is it the draftman's fault or Parinterpret them for several cenliament's?

Yours faithfully, SHAUN W. THORPE, 53 Willow Vale, Shepherds Bush,

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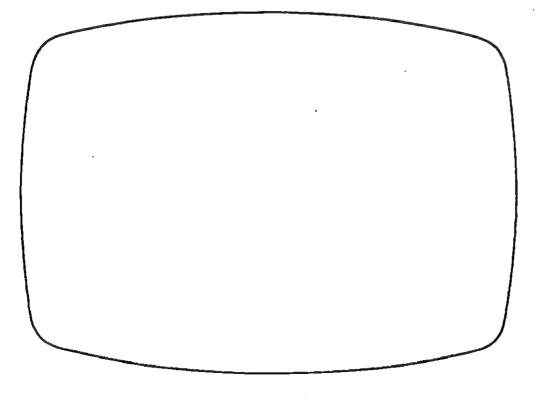
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What shape will your advertising budget be in next year?



Instead of blowing all your money on the box in the New Year, consider the rectangular alternative.

For the average cost of just making a commercial these days, you could run a national campaign of full page newspaper advertisements.

The press gives you the freedom to change your advertising at short notice. Television doesn't.

The press gives you space to go into detail about your product. With just enough room for about 60

words in a 30 second commercial, television doesn't. (This paragraph alone would take nearly 20 seconds to broadcast.)

You can also pin point the people you wish to talk to with greater accuracy than you can on television, making sure your money is spent where it can do the most good.

Whereas the mind-boggling choice of channels now available thanks to satellite and cable, makes viewing habits extremely unpredictable and encourages zapping; every TV advertiser's nightmare.

Let's face it, the only thing you can be certain of with TV is, if the ads are on, so are a lot of kettles.

If you want to be sure of reaching your audience on TV, you need to reach for a very fat wallet. So if you want your advertising budget in good shape for '93, put it in the shape on the right, above.



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119-125ds 328-339ds
11-15ds 35-40ds
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5-4-0.53pr 1.45-1.43pr
41-57'sds 12-13'2dd
32-4'2ds 92-11'eds
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12-13'uds
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1 2,800 366 2,800 Nihm Fds 6,700 F & O 1,500 Pearson 3,500 PowerGen 3,500 Prudential 3,100 92.04 92.77 92.12 92.83 92.02 92.04 92.75 92.77 25676 8630 2,200 FT Gold Mines ---FT Gold Mines --FT Gort Sess ----____ [484.82 (+27.96) _____ 65.50 (+0.1) ____ 109.02 (+0.06) ____ 93.73 (+0.06) . 103.5 (+0.5) 105-12 104-06 105-12 104-03 109 112 5,200 Gen Acc 9,100 6,500 4.400 Gen Elec Glaxo Granada TI Gp Sydney: AO 1515.7 (+16.2) 2,400 5,200 Long Gilt Previous open interes: 52431 . 31492 100-24 100-00 100-18 99-22 Frankfurt: Tate & Lyle 2,000 Tesco 10,000 Barciays Bass 18,000 2,300 1492.04 (-15.87) Japanese Govint Bond 107.58 107.00 107.57 298 Q 6,600 2,300 1,100 1,400 935 4,800 1,900 1,800 2,000 Guinnett 4.000 HSBC 12,000
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Whithd 'A' TRADITIONAL OPTIONS 91.71 91.81 91.81 91.75 2099 I 91.89 18.19 91.66 For Settlement March 22 First Dealings Bnt Airwys 4,500 Mar 93 Jun 93 90.30 VI.41 90.38 91.59 1241 135 90.30 91.48 90.44 91.59 Brit Steel 21,000 March 11 Call options were taken out on 18/12/92: Amber Day, Arcon, ASDA, Hamruers Ord, Ibstock Johnson, Premier. Taunton Cider, Tiphook. Wace. Parts Refland, Taunton Cider. Parts & Calls: Burton, Mirror Group, Owners Abroad, Premier, Tarmac. Mar 93 Jun 93 ... 94.97 94.65 94.99 94.43 94.90 473 L 294 94.46 94.90 2,700 2,700 DOLLAR SPOT RATES 92.65 93.30 92.57 93.20 93.70 2024 1.5493-1.5520 1.4463-1.4473 ---- 11.02-11.05 ---- 32.27-32.32 1.2730-1.2735 COMMODITIES LIFFE OPTIONS REPORT: London coffee and cocoa both put in a firmer performance at the close with cocoa crawling back into the plus column while coffee last traded at a new 13 month high. Volumes however were routine, with both markets relying on technicals for direction in the absence of iresh physical news. 5.35-5.36 1.5683-1.5693 7.7350-7.7360 1.6850-1.6900 1406.0-1407.0 123.17-123.22 2.5815-2.5825 1.7600-1.7610 6.75-6.76 140.30-140.60 1.6395-1.6405 111.00-111.50 6.9580-6.9680 Series Jan Apr
And Leon. 600 S0 65
Cr6431 650 20 37
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Bass... 600 50 67
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Boots... 500 31 43
Cr527) 550 7 18
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240 4 10 13 23 36 47 23 45 46 73 6 13 24 37 10 20 19 17 7 16 24 37 512 8 14 17 7 11 Abby Ner. 360, 1776-13 | 390 Austrad | 20 C24| 20 C24| 300 C378 | 300 C378 | 300 C198 | 194 Br Gas | 260 C198 | 194 Br Gas | 195 CRUDE OILS (Stucrel FOB) Cocoa closed firmer after recovering losses seen throughout most of the day. GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES WHEAT (dose Em | PRODUCTS (#MT) | Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt | Premium Gas 15 | Bid: 190 (+2) | Gasoil EEC | 15 | 176 (+2) | Non EEC 1H Feb | 180 (+3) | 3.5 Fuel Oil | 180 (+3) | 180 (+3) | 180 (+3) | MONEY RATES (%) (*50!) 500
GEC. 260
GEC. 260
(*22.7) 280
Hanson 220
(*22.7) 240
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(*14.2) 140
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(* Base Raies: Clearing Banks 7 Finance Hee 8
Discount Market Loads: O/night high: 7 Low 64. Week fix:
Treasury Balls (Disj-Buy: 2 mth 6"x; 3 mth 6"x. Sell: 2 mth 6"x; 3 mth: 6%. BARLEY I made 6°-6" m 7'-7' m IPE FUTURES (close E/A 7 mg 6'+6" n 7'+7', 7'+7'n RAW SUGAR COB low Oct 190.0-87.0 Dec 191.0-89.0 186.0-85.0 Mar 194.0-90.0 187.0-85.0 May 195.0-41.0 190.0-87.0 Volume 15 131.10 133.20 134.65 107.25 110.25 GAS OIL 6'r6'\u 175.02-75.25 Apr 172.75-73.00 175.75-76.00 May 171.50 BID 175.25-75.50 Jun 171.00-71 SO Voi: 12447 (*71)
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Oct 2
3.0 Dec 2
248.0-47.5 Mar 2 6°-6° 3.52-3.49 7°-6°-6¹r6¹¹m 3.97-3.95 18.48-18.49 May 18.51-18.53 Jun ... 18.53 BID 18.52, BID ing Society C'Ds: Vol: 15390 i. 800 40 850 5 ... 140 2¹2 160 ¹2 is... 25 2 1000 20 1050 4¹2 TREASURY BILLS: Applets: E445m allotted: £100m; Bids: £98.405% received: 100%; Lag week: £98.40% received: 45%; Avge ruse: £6.3875% last wk £6.4035%; Next week: £100m. May -UNLEADED GASOLINE 190.00-93.00 Apr 200.50-05.00 192.00-95.50 May 190.00 BfD 195.50-98.50 Vol: 285 MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION
Average fastock gries at representative markets on December 18 POTATO Open ----- 63.0 ----- 69.8 ---- cmq Volu EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%) Close 62.8 69.8 90.0 Mc: 85 Sheep 81.81 -1.59 82.36 -1.39 -37.7 79.79 -2.40 -36.1 Castle 114.65 -1.27 [14.73 -1.14 -46.2 [14.29 -1.99 -22.3 88.55 +4.50 88.55 +4.50 -39.2 -1/2 GNI Lad High: 1300 1270 und und en inrs: 3560 BIFFEX GNI Lad (\$10/pg) Currency Dollar: Deutschemark French France Low: 1295 Close: 1298 1270 1270 unq 1258 unq 140 23560 Index 1373+3 Jan 93 Feb 93 Apr 93 Jul 93 Vol: 18 kgs. k mate Series Jan Apr Jed Jan Apr Je Call 3'-3', 9':-9', 13'-12', 6'-6', 3'':-3', 3"=3"p 8"=8"p 11'-10', 0-5's 3"=3"p 3'+2'. 9'-8', 11-9 6'-5', 4'-3', Fisces 220 22 36 43 14 23 31 (*220°2) 240 12 25 34 24 34 43 RUBBER 84 120 142 53 85 112 153 Series Feb May Aug Feb May Aug ٤į Eastern Ele. 370 34 43 - 9 15 -(**297) 400 16 27 - 23 29 -| Comparis (Volume prev day) | LONDON METAL EXCHANGE | Copper Gde A (L/tonne) | Cost: 1400.0-1400.5 3 mfm: 1477.0-1427.5 | Lead (L/tonne) | 291.50-292.00 302.00-302.50 | Zine Spec Hi Gde (L/tonne) | 1046.0-1046.5 | 1066.0-1067.0 | Tim (L/tonne) | 5660.0-5665.0 | 5735.0-5740.0 | 1218.5-1219.0 | 1242.0-1242.5 | 1242.0-1242.5 | 1260.0-5762.0 | 5825.0-5830.0 | GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co) LONDON MEAT PUTURES
Live Fig Vist

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YACHTING

Tudor's rivals help out as screw saga takes turn for worst

AS RICHARD Tudor and his crew aboard the dismasted vacht. British Steel II, continued to limp northwards towards more favourable winds, their race rivals rallied round yesterday to help them before racing on across the Southern Ocean towards Hobart.

Tudor's yacht is the latest. and most serious, victim of the breakage of identical rigging screws on six of the ten-strong fleet in the British Steel Challenge round-the-world race.

Adrian Donovan's Heath Insured and Group 4 Securitas, skippered by Mike Golding, both diverted over-night from different points more than 100 miles to the north to rendezvous with the disabled yacht. Remarkably, both reached British Steel at the same time yesterday and were a welcome sight for the

crew who, three days ago, were faced with being 2,000 miles from the nearest land with no rig and sufficient fuel to power them only 500 miles.

Adrian Rayson, a Heath Insured crewman, described the yacht as a tragic sight Without a mast to carry the eye high, she looked unnervingly low in the water. An alabatros without wings." The crews spent an hour at night passing five gallon jerry cans filled with diesel on heaving lines between the yachts.

Rayson also reported that Tudor and his crew were shattered to be out of this leg of the race. "They are striving to get to where repairs can be effected, but realise that their situation is critical. They are a long way from the shipping lanes and know that they will need more fuel."

> they are nursing their yachts.
>
> Chris Regnart, a rigging specialist, explained yesterday: Part of the problem is that these yachts and their masts are very heavy and are generating enormous shock loadings as they crash through the head seas ... the headstay and bottlescrews need to be at least one size larger."

Heath Insured, like four

other yachts within the fleet, is

nursing jury rigs after experi-

encing the same bottlescrew

failure that has caused British

The failures are recognised

by Chay Blyth, the organiser of the challenge, as a design

fault common to each boat. "We never expected them to

push these boats as hard as

The concern for Blyth and

the 140 crew members now riding out the worst of the

Southern Ocean is how many

will fail before they reach Hobart, still 2,300 miles to the west. Group 4, which was the first to suffer this forestay

failure, has experienced a sec-

ond failure. Since then, these

crews have rigged up prevent-er lines and the signs are that

more bottlescrew - and rigs-

they have been." he said.

Steel 11's retirement.

Andy Cawley a spokesman for Norseman Gibb, the manufacturers of the bottlescrews, confirmed yesterday that they had drawn the same conclusion. "Our tests indicate that the fittings broke because they have been overloaded. We are now going to supply the yachts with larger bottlescrews made from stronger Nitronic 50

There was, however, good news on the horizon. Last night the cargo ship, NZ Pacific, set out from New Zealand bound for Zeebrugge with 1,000 litres of fuel and expects to rendezvous with British Steel within three days.



Bearing up: Armstrong, the Workington captain, appreciates more than most the club's change in fortune

Workington staging a revival

IN WORKINGTON, where against the worst winds of industrial recession, old-timers still speak wistfully of the days, 40 years ago, when theirs was the greatest club in the game.

They gather in the prostic pubs of this once-thriving steel town and talk of like Southward, Billy Ivison and the others who took Workington to Wembley three times in the 1950s following in the wake of the club's first and only champ-ionship, in 1951. Things have not been the same

At Derwent Park, unlovely and for too long unloved, the years will fall away tomorrow, when Wigan, now undisputed kings of the game, final of the Regal Trophy. The big time is back at the ground perched on wasteland between the west coast railway and the seamen's mission, and if men like Kevan Gorge and Peter Walsh have their way, it will not be just for a day. Workington are third divi-

sion now, "ground floor" as Walsh, their Australian coach, says. For five years,

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Chipperham v Divisedon; Emore v Torquay United, Frome v Sabart, Minenead v Taunton; Plymouth Argyle v Bristol Manur Farm; Torrogion v Dawlah; Westbury v Listeard Athletic.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE Premier division: Brightingses v Felenherm: Correct v Method: Creat Yatrough v Newmarkst, Helsiaad v Felespowe: Heverhall v Tiptres: Mesch v Wattor, Stommerket v Chapteris; Woodens Histor.

reson.

LONDON OLD BOYS: Senior Cup: Old Ateadonisms v Old Chigwellens; Old Tetrans v Old Vaughanters; Old Westherhiens v Old Hamptonene.

Westherniens v Old Hemptoniens.

MORTHERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE: First division: Billingham Synthonie v Connett. Blyth Spertans v Sesham Red Star, Dufferm Cly v South Barric Galeborough v Essington Collen; Hebburn v Chester La Service Northeller of Service Oriental Chester of Southeller of Political College of Service Northeller of Service Oriental City Brighton Crystel Philoso v Colchester, Luten v Reading: Delard United v Bourne-

(2.0); London Crusadera v Fasiherstone; Otchem v Bramby; Swinton v Rochdele Third division: Beldy v Huralet (2.30); Doncaster v Develoury; Nettingham Cay v Kaphley; Ryadide York v Bastow (3.15);

v Charley (1.0). HOCKEY

MERI: Crystal Palace indoor league: Old Couphtoriens v Surbitor; Bromisy v East Cristead; Frebrands v Carriedouy; Teddington v St Alberts; Bromisy v Old Loughtoness; Frebrends v Surbitor; Carriedoury v St Alberts; Teddington v East Ghristead.

BASKETBALL

CARLSBERG NATIONAL LEAGUE Mark.
First division: Markstoner Gland. V Worthing Bears. Sunderferd Sarries v Themes.
Valley Tiggers. Women: Finst division:
Northampton v Jalton Keynes. O Cats.
Northampton v Jalton Keynes. O Cats.
Northampton Williams v Chestry.

ICE HOCKEY

HENERON NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier desision: Cercit Desis v Durnum Wespe: Murryfield Places v Beschwid Bees. Norwich and Pyterborough Prinses v Humbersche Seakewier; Whiley Weurloss v Hottergham Penshars. Flost division: Medwey Bees v Lae Vesley Llong; Romitord Pediers v Swindom Witchels, Stough Jate v Beschnottelie Romers.

OTHER SPORT

es v Lae Valley Llors; Romlard v Swindon Wildcals, Slough Jale v plus Biguers.

Alan Lee visits a northern rugby league club

intent on warming local hearts again as it makes a return tomorrow to the limelight

they have teetered on the brink of extinction, a ers, they stared at me, bewildered," he says. "I thought I was speaking too fast, or

before."

they couldn't get my accent. It turned out they had never

been taught such things

From videos sent to him in

Australia, Walsh identified

the horrors of a defence that

conceded 700 points last

season. He has reduced an

season. He has recorded an average of 29 points per game against them to just nine. "They lost the ball 72 times in a game against Batley," Walsh says. "I was

ready to get on the first

we've worked on it and we're

Walsh, treated at first with

suspicion by the parochial

townsfolk, has won them

over. "I could walk the

streets naked now and no-

body would mind," he says. His effect is unarguable.

Workington have won nine

down to the twenties now."

£500,000 debt dragging them under. But Gorge, a British Steel manager and the sort of chairman who makes the head swim with his enthusiasm, and a few other good men, have turned the club around. First, the debt was wiped

off by selling part of the training ground for a super-market. Then, the ground — "disgusting, falling apart", recalls Gorge — received a belated facelift. Finally, after a dreadful saga of injuries, parting coaches last season, came the fast-talking Walsh. Walsh, 34, gave up playing

Wales after a fourth nose operation. He arrived at the other end of the earth. culturally and climatically, if not quite geographically, and wondered what he had

stumbled on. games in succession. They When I first started talkhave the best defensive ing technically to the playrecord in all three divisions

leading scorer.

Promotion is the priority, not only this season but next as well, and the good news is

that Walsh is about to agree to stay on another year. For a town with 30 per cent unemployment, sport-

and, in Dean Marwood, the

ing success restores spirit. You could see it and hear it this week in the old Market Place, where one of the three pubs has the Workington captain, Colin Armstrong, as Landlord. If anyone deserves the

dream to come true tomorrow, it is Armstrong. A year ago to the week, having just moved back into town, he was found to be a diabetic. Most of Christmas was spent in hospital and, when he came out, his father died time," he says, "and it was made worse by what was

happening at the club." Armstrong, a wide-eyed giant of a Cumbrian, can barely take in the transformation. But he will if Wigan are beaten tomorrow, as he believes they can be, and one of his faithful regulars, the 1950s hero, Ivison, tells him over the bar that it was just like the old times.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Continuity the key to Castleford's progress

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

WHILE Wigan should have a leisurely passage into the Regal Trophy semi-final draw at Workington Town tomorrow, another bruising collision be-tween St Helens and Castleford can be expected at Knowsley Road in this after-noon's televised tie.

Strength in depth, as in previous years, has enabled Wigan to steer a steady course. Without such resources, injuries have subjected St Helens and Castleford to fluctuations that proposals to extend the season can only worsen.

The wear and tear on St Helens of nine unbeaten games in the first six weeks has been followed by four defeats in their subsequent ten match-es, including losing 16-6 at Castleford last week. Earlyseason injuries at Castleford have cleared and they have

compiled a run of seven wins. With more than half the St Helens backs absent, Castleford have the advantage of an unchanged side stretching back a month. At half back and loose forward, Mike Ford and Tawera Nikau's instinctive understanding has permeated through to a young attacking strikeforce in which the outstanding pair of Simon Middleton and Tony Smith have claimed 24 tries between

them. St Helens are reinforced by the first appearance in their starting line-up for six months of Paul Loughlin, who plays at centre after breaking his arm on Great Britain's summer tour. Only if their heftier forwards can exert a stranglehold early on, however, do they stand a chance of break-

ing down Castleford.

After surviving a hard mid-week replay against Warring-ton, Bradford Northern face Widnes, who have not played for a formight, although rest and recuperation did not suit Julian O'Neill, their utility back, who withdrew yesterday with a septic finger.

Leigh's scrum half. Stuart Pugsley, has not helped his side's considerable odds against winning at Hull in the third all-first-division tie. He has demaged knee ligaments after falling down some stairs.

in the only Stones Bitter championship fixture, bottomplaced Hull Kingston Rovers have a full complement of players for the visit by Warrington after a settlement earlier this week of the strike by 15 first-team members over

bonus payments.

Gary Chariton, the Carlisie lock, has received a fourmatch ben after being sent off for a high tackle at Rochdale Hornets on Sunday.

BRIDGE

Andrew Roberts, the technical director, with a bottlescrew

Tournaments show unappealing side

BRIDGE tournaments are increasingly decided in the appeals committee room after play is over (Albert Dormer writes). The Tollemeche Cup at Coventry for the English county championship is the latest example: London took an early departure when a tournament director's ruling in their favour was overturned by the appeals committee.

This meant London lost to Surrey by a single victory

point. Avon, last year's winners, also failed to gain one of the eight qualifying places from the record field of 36. Most appeals in bridge are

ruling bodies an unfortunate lead when it instructed tournament directors to rule almost automatically in favour of the

Darlington v Scunithorps Halifax v Bury Heretodd v Carlisle Rochdale v Lincoln

GM Vauxitall Conference

Altrincham v Weifing.
Saih v Stalybridge.
Degenham and Redbridge v Witton.
Geleshead v MacIssfield.
Kidderminster v Runcom.
Northwich v Famborough.

Scarborough v York.

Telford v Slough Woking v Boston

Scottish League Premier division

Aberdeen v Hibernian Dundee v Felkirk Hearts v Celtic Motherwell v Dundee Utd

Rengers v St Johnstone.

Tennents Scottish Cup

Ciyde v Brechin
Cove Rangers v Montrose
East File v Alloe
Gala Fairydean v Arbrosth

V of Leither v E Stirling (2.0)

POSTPONED: Inverness Thistie v Berwick Rangers; Huntly v Quaen of the South.

POSTPONIED: Invernees Inteste v pervisor.
Rengers: Hurrify v Queen of the South.

DIADORA LEAGUE: Premier divisions:
Aylesbury v Sution United; Besingstole v
Hendon, Bromley v Stevenege Borough (at
Croydon FC); Carshalton v Stanes; Enfled
v Yasding, Grays v St. Albens; Harrow v
Workingsam, Hayes v Bognor; Kingstonen
v Chestram; Mastow v Wiverhoe, Windson
and Hersham. Berking v Dorking; Bishops
Storthod v Covydon; Borsham Whold v
Wityrelsale; Chalton's Petar v Helphrick
Suntis; Lewes v Leyton; Molessy v Machen
head; Tooling and Milicham v Hitchin;
Viermbiey v Lubridge. Second division:
Senthamstad v Withern; Egnan v Edgwars;
Hernel Hermoslaed v Southal; Hungeflord v
Harefield; Malden v Metropolitan Police;
Worthing v Tibory; Trait division; Aldershol
Town v East Thurnock; Clapton v HoroCarriberiey; Flackwell Headt v Helpfack
Horstein v Timp; Leighton v Petersard.
Horstein v Spsom and Evell.
HFS LOANS LEAGUE: Premier division;

Horston v Epsom and Errell.

HFS LOANS LEAGUE: Premier division:
Bishop Aucidend v Mossley, Budon v
Fleetwood: Droylsden v Chorley; Fnoldey v
Colwyn Bay; Galarsoorough v Morecambe;
Horwich v Ernley; Leek v Hyde; Marine v
Whitisy Bay, Matlock v Acchington Stanley;
Windord v Southport. First division:
Altreton v Netherfield; Ashton United v
Bridlingson Town; Curzon Ashton v Racidite
Borough; Eastwood Town v Lancaster Cay,
Farstey Celtic v Greins; Great Harwood v
Caamprion; Guseley v Knowsley; Herncate v Shepshed Alblon; Warrington v
Worksop; Workingson v Congleton.

First division

Second round

Autonue v Eastwood Hentey, Pilson v Nantwich; Kidegrove Alhletic v Bleckpool Rovers, Newcistle Town v Chadderton, Prescot v Glosep North End; Saftyrd Chy v Perran; Skelmerschie v Makre Roed (Men). Lamot Pile Trophy: K Chell v Ellesmere Port Town

mouth, Southermion v Tottenham; Swedon v Bredi Hovers
SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE; Risk division: Old Bestonens v Old Finchletens; Old Granmergens v Witen, Parklett v Mit Silv Wiley.
ARTT-RHAN LEAGUE; Anthur Donn Cup: Old Certusians v Old Widenhamists.

Sin Vienge.

Sin Vienge.

Sin Vienge.

Sin Vienge.

Sin Cartusiane v Old Wyleshamists.

Premier division: Lancing Old Boya v Old

Repontents: Old Malvemiants v Old

Repontents: Old Malvemiants v Old

Brachteidens: Old Wellingburiers v Old

Salopatra:

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division:

Enfeld Old Boys v Glyn Old Boys: Old

Ignesione v Cardinal Massnarg: Old

Temporiers v Old Dawes.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First

divisione Cerchaston v Old Parkensans; Old

Bernfeldens: South Bank Poly v Midenti

Bank; West Wickfarm v Old Eathermeurs;

Alexandra Park v Old Stationers; Broomfield

v Old Salestens, Rew Association v Lloyde

Bank; West Wickfarm v Park Parkense Barric

Bernis of England v Royal Bank of Scotlamd:

Bernisten v Alleyn Old Boys; East Barric

Od v Old Lalymerians; Old Parmilladens v

Cusco; Old Westmarter; V Old

Lycntans; Reigate Provy V Moton.

RUGERY UNION

RUGBY UNION nternational match Scotland A vitaly (at Melrose, 2.0)

ADT divisional championship London v North

tat Leicesier)

ADT county championship First division north Lancashire v Cumbria (at Presion Gresshoppers, 2.0)... Northumbertand v Yorkahire

First division south Hampshire v Comwell (at Basingstoke, 2.15) Surrey v Micotesex (at London Irish)

SECOND DIVISION: Device of Hamburgham int Bridgerit; Gloucesterials v Kark (at Areso), Third divisions Bushing arrandor or Bentshire (at Aylesbury, 2.0); Denset evel Wittshire v Sussets (at Salabury, 2.1s). Fourth division: Somanast v Oxfordature (at hands.) Irish inter-provincial championship Connected v Irlath Editor

(In Belfasi) McEwan's Scottish League First division Second diversion Dunfermina v Kilmamock (2.0) SWALEC Cup Fourth round

Aberavon Clums v Nasih.

Bleina v Pontypool . bilgare v Poritypool
Bomynteen v Abertillery
Bridgend v Pentyrch
Builth Wells v Varche
Caerphility v Cardiff Quins
Cordiff v Maesteg
Cross Keys v Old Penarthans
Owngwach v Newport HSOB
Fleur de Lys v Aberavon
Konflich Hau v Kirhueffe Kenfig Hill v Kidwelly Lianalii v St Albans .

Uantrisant v Newbridge Narberth v St Peter's.... Penarth v Tenby Utd..... Pontardoulais v Pontyondd....... Pontypool Utd v Blaenau Gwent Pyle v Sanghanydd RTB Ebbw Vale v Colwyn Bay . South Wales Police v Cardiff Institute

Swanses v Abercynon
Talywain v Ebbw Vale
Torrydall v Treherbert
Tredeger v Glynnesth
Trimsaren v Glernorgan Wanderers
Tumble v Blackwood

Ynysybwl v Pencoed..... Ystrad Rhondda v Abercem . Ystradgynieis v Liandovery HOMEKEN WELSH LEAGUE Fourth division: Cardigan v Ruthin. Club matches

Ayr v Watsoniems (2 0)

Ayr v Watsoniems (2 0)

Badh v London Weish (3.0)

Blacicheath v Met Posce (3.0)

Cation v Weston-auper-Mare (2.15)

Corstonphine v Claricston (2.0)

Coventry v Gloucaster (3.0)

Sciriburgh Academicals v

Edinburgh Academicals v

Edinburgh Anderers (2.0)

Pylde v Nuneaton (2.15)

Havrick v Metrose (2.0)

Henois FP v Glasgow Acad (2.0)

Kandal v West Hartlepool (2.0)

Ledde v Waterloo

Leddo Scottish v Richmond

Moselsy v Northampton (3.0)

Moseley v Northempton (3.0)
Orreit v Broughton Park
Plymouth v Eveler
Roselyn Park v London Insh
Rugby v Bedford (2.15) Sarecens v Morley (2.15) Stewart's Mel FP v

Preston Lodge (2.0)... Wasps v Welkefield...... West of Scotland v PROVINCIAL INSURANCE CUP: Fourth-round replay: North: Phoenia Park v British Steel Fifth round: London and South East: Samet v Crowbosough; Detatworth v

RUGBY LEAGUE RESIAL TROPHY: Third You're St Many U.V. Createland

MER's Norwich Union East Langue: Pre-mier divinion: Waldech v Bury St Edmunds (at Bury) CRYSTAL PALACE INDOOR LEAGUE: Gristal Palace INDOOR LEAGUE: Bromley v Carterbury, East Grissad v Frebrands, Old Loughtonians v St Albens; Surblan v Teddingloft, Bromley v Fre-brands, East Gristand v Centerbury, Old Loughtonians v Teddingson; Surbson v & Albens.

Sevenosies; Bracknell v Basingstoks; Brackord v Otton and West Warwicks; Brankood v Maddon, Cambridge v Bedford, Cardid Antiette v Cwintowe, Copdicid v Harteston Magpies; Crimson Pamblers v Shefield: Exeter v Exmouth; Herstond v Leomurster; Lanishen v Porthoswit; Newport v BAC, Old Loughtonisms v St. Albons, Pictwick v Christer CO; Renelagh v Windson; Raddondge and Blord v Bilbertey; St Fagans v Penants; Sarberner v Bluehans; Southampton v Boumemouth, Stourport v Kattering, Trojans v Wallington; Winbledon v Reading. BASKETBALL

CAPLSBERG NATIONAL LEAGUE: Ment. First division: Hernet Hempseed Royale v Suniderand Sams, Leicester Fiders v Cartictord Kings; London Towers v Cheshne Jets, Marchester Gants v Deby Bucks; Didnem Cettes v Worthing Bears; Trismes Valley Tigers v Bermingham Bullets. Women: First division: Chesham Ladies v London Jess; Leicester Ladies v London YMCA, Phondid v Ipswich, Tremes Valley v Shaffield Vagers.

ICE HOCKEY HEINEKEN NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Brilingham Bombers v Nottingham Penthers; Ducham Wissps v Murrayfeld Racers, File Piyers v Brochmell Beos, Nonech and Peterborough v Willey Wamors. First division: Basingstotic Bovers v Seendon Wildcats; Mitton Kaynes Knigs v Lee Valley Lone, Sheffeld Steelers v Homford Raiders, Telford Tigers v Matham Benester.

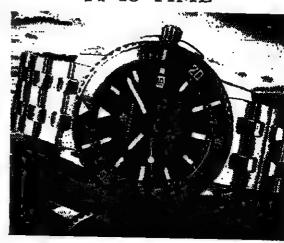
Edgbesten Phory v Long Road Combridge Notlingham West Bridgiard v Boston Arei 4: Betchwood St. Albans v Clearvey Area 7: David Lastidouthe V Livid Lano Wolung: Maddsine Fitness v Crawloy. Surrey Country Club v Pavilion and Avenue Hove. Area 8: Alverstoke Gosport v West Hants Bournemouth. Centrocourt Bassigstoke v Match Point Southsmoton: Manydown Busingstoke v Kingsky Pack A Punchers.

VOLLEYBALL VOLLEYBALL

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND CUP: Men;
Third round: London Lynx v Mizuno Malony
Levishem: Newcastlo Staffa v Coverny; TV
Jets v Wesser, Potona Ealing v Oynama
London, Priory v Speadwell Rucanor,
Tooding Aguita v PARSS, Central London,
Birmingham v Reabok Liverpool City,
Women: Third rosund: Purpool City,
Women: Third rosund: Purpool Condon
Lynav Sheffield Wadnosday, Team Knights
v Wesser.

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Premier League

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Chelses v Manchester Uld
Coventry v Liverpool
Everton v Southampton Anchester City v Aston Villa

First division

Third division

Birmingham v Wattord Bristol City v Peterborough Chariton v Oxford Utd Luton v Sunderland..... Portemouth v Notts County.

Second division Botton v Bradford. Reading v Stockport

THE NEW TIMES

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RUGBY LEAGUE

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WAR NOT THE OWNER OF THE OWNER OWNER OF THE OWNER OWNE

about unauthorised information transmitted to a player when his partner hesitates during the bidding. The World Bridge Federation gave

complaining side instead of using judgment.

This has led to an increase means that skill in arguments, and the ability to think up plausible reasons for hesitarpart of the players' armoury.

OLIALIFIERS: Group A: 1, Gloucesterbine 2, Middlesex, Group B: 1, Warwickshire; 2 Surey, Group C: 1, Hampshre and live o Wigni; 2, Kennohesser, Group D: 1, Oxford shire; 2, Menseyside and Chestrin.

SEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier di-vision: Atherstone v Gloucester, Burton v Haesings, Chelmstord v Corby, Cheltenhern v Cambridge Cay, Hischestord v Watericoville; Solfhull v Dover, Trowbridge v Cheltenhern sit ut bisseparen, Milliams

v Cambridge Cay, Hednestord Witerstrowie's Solfaul' v Dover, Trowbridge v Crewley; Weymouth v Helescown, Liffchard division: Billion v RC Warwick; Dudley v Bern; Evestrem v Tarrworth, Gresley v Rushcien and Damonds, King's Lyrn v Forest Green; Newport AFC v Hindeley; Redesch v Leicester United; Southridge v Huneston Borough; Suston Codifield v Bridgnorth; Weston-super-Mare v Bedworth; Yate v Grenthern Southern division: Andover v Stongbourne, Ashford v Hawart; Brearase v Grenthern Southern division: Andover v Stongbourne, Ashford v Hawart; Brearase v Grenthern Southern division: Andover v Stongbourne, Ashford v Hawart; Brearase v Burgoto, Fielder Athletic v Durstable, Margate v Bury Comp. Newport, IoW v Eth and Berveder; Selebury v Carterbury Cey; Sucbury Town v Poole; Weeldetons v Ferebarn.

v Poder, Weedcome v Ferenan.
SMIENHOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Bullymens v
Portadown: Bangor v Coleraine, Cantols v
Ciftorville; Crusaders v Larrie, Distillery v
Gentroran: Obreadon v Omagh Towns
Larifeld v Bellycher; Newsy v Ards.

Liftition of Denyouse, Termy Press. Aberyet (CONICA LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberyet wyth v Abergaverny; Bilton Ferry v Alar Licio: Connei's Ousy v Caerske; Corney Bengor (2.90), First v Holywerk Infor Caroll v Cwritbren (2.50); Measreg Park v Llanell Mold v Llaniclines; Porthresdog v Newcount

NEVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION: First division: Southampton v Arsensi.

Park overcores sources plant y Parties.

ABACUS LEAGUE: First division:
Ammentori v Bleamhandde; Castleon v
Bridgend, Caldicot v Abersman, Cardill
Civil Service v Montson; Portification
Ynysythel v Brecon; Port Telbot v Ferndels:

Ton Petitle V Petitle V MEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Atherson LR v Derwert, Bacup Borough v St Helens Towns, Bember Bridge v Citheroe; Blackpool Mechanics v Burscough, Bradland Park

Crystal Palace v Leads (1.30)...... Notim Forest v Wimbledon (3.0) ...

Bisckpool v Fulham (3.0)...... West Bromwich v Mansfield (3.0)....

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF FRELAND: Promier division: Bohemisms v Shelbourns

BORD GAS LEASUE OF INSLINOUS Premier division: Bohemiers v Shebourne (3 30): Cork Cay v Deny Cay (2.15). Shemirock Rosens v Limitelik (2.15); Signo Rosens v St. Petrick's Athletic (2.13); Waterford v Drogheda United (2.15); ALLBRIGHT BITTER WELSH CUP; Fourth round: Haventordwest v Rhyl (2.30).

RUGBY LEAGUE

BEGAL TROPHY: Third round: Bradlord v Wiches: Hull v Leigh (3.18); Workington v Wigan. STONES BITTER CHAMPHONSHIP: Flant division: Hull KR v Warrington (3.15). Second division: Curtain v Hunderständ

Premier League

First division

Brentford v West Harr

Second division

Third division

Forquey v Strewsbury

in appeals, which pleases many committee people but it ing, are becoming a necessary

GUADE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

A question of reading between fine lines of the laws



Williams: try-stopper

R ugby men are creatures of habit. Witness, for instance, the production-line try-scoring technique that has become so familiar. No sooner had John Kirwan, the New Zealand wing, introduced the prototype in 1987 of sliding stiffly over the line clutching the ball in one hand close to his chest with one hand and chin up, than everyone was at it. This is all very practical and mechanical, with good coaching reasons as to why tries should be

scored in this way.

Now there are few dramatic dives with arms outstretched. Instead, they skid along. And when was last seen that dying species, the nonchalant onehanded touchdown as the player ran elegantly on after grounding the ball in an posts? One is born of routine of a solemn job done, the other is full of colourful dash, born of the adventurer. But I protest too much. It is much missed in the same way some of the laws are, or at least in their application.

Rugby union, more than any other team game, is continually being revised but even so it is destined to stay the most imperfect of games. Unlike Rubik's cube, whose disparate parts finally come together, rugby can never make a nice dean whole.

"If England want to play an expansive game, you have to look at a player like me," Back

said, not with any arrogance

but merely to point out that

nugby can still be a game of

flexibility, of putting man and

ball into space rather than a

series of crash-bang-wallops.

Alongside Back is Dean Richards, the Midlands cap-

tain, who appears to be yester-

instructive, particularly if the

miserable weather continues.

It might favour the Midlands'

forward-orientated game, al-

though injury has deprived

them of Martin Bayfield's

Clarke, for all his dynamic qualities, displayed last week the little frailties he must iron

out of his game. He must

concernrate on the ball before

he works out what he is going

gifts are famous and today

seems just the occasion to

If London are to have a say

in the title, they must score a

hatful of points against the

by the South-West last week,

we have the defence to ensure

we do not concede too many

points." Tony Jorden, the London coach, said. "Our attacking play wide out and our goal-kicking look pretty

In their last two home

fixtures against the North,

London have scored 36 and

Kevin Simms's team in as

Successive defeats have left

43 points respectively.

"Despite being overhauled

Richards's ball-hugging

lineout skills.

to do with it.

profitable."

bring out his best.

While the lineout forms an integral part of the game, it will ever be so. If its many

GERALD DAVIES Commentary

obscurities weakens its appeal as a television sport, and there is pressure brought to bear to make it more synthetically pleasing for this purpose, it is rugby's idiosyncratic nature which hitherto has provided much of its charm.

number of irritations. Referees, in seemingly insignificant circumstances, are ignoring the laws. In some respects, it

Let us consider the manner in which the ball is delivered into the scrum. The law is clear: the ball shall be put in "at a quick speed straight along the middle line". Yet referees appear consistently to

turn a blind eye. In 23 matches I have seen this season, in only one has the referee penalised for a crooked feed into the scrum. Brian Stirling, of Ireland, blew twice for this infringement in the Wales B game against Australia. Who knows, perhaps there is a new breed of scrum halves around now. But it does invite disbelief to acknowledge the perfect innocence and consistent rectitude of scrum halves.

Let us move to the lineout. In throwing in the ball, the player "must not put any part of either foot in the field of play". Nobody, referee or player, takes a blind bit of notice of this one either. Hookers are almost universalused in this respect and invariably take a step into the playing area. If nobody has been brought to task on the matter, and the law is constantly ignored, why have it written in as an infringement?

tent is the shoulder charge still an integral part of the game? In this way, Haydn Mainwaring, for the Barbarians, stopped South Africa's charging captain, Avril Malan, in his tracks at Cardiff Arms Park in 1961. As indeed did J. P. R. Williams who, equally dramatically, stopped France's wing, Jean-François Gourdon, from scoring at the

same venue in 1976. They both walked away confident of a job well done. Today, they might not be allowed to feel so triumphant since they might find themselves at the receiving end of a lecture from the referee.

So, is it admissible for one player to shoulder charge

act of dangerous play as a player who "charges or knocks down an opponent carrying the ball without any attempt to grasp him". There is widespread, divergent inter-

pretation of this. Similarly, can a player be tackled if both his feet are off the ground? According to the laws, "if a player attempts to tackle a player who, when fielding a kick in open play, is off the ground jumping for

the ball", it is dangerous play. While the argument still rages about the efficacy of the experimental ruck and maul laws, perhaps the international board, while they are about it, would care to shed some light on these other issues too.

RUGBY UNION

South-West search for draw to take first divisional title

By DAVID HANDS

TAKE your pick of who has most to prove at Leicester today. The options range from Neil Back in the Midlands back row via Fred Howard, the referee, to the entire South and South-West XV as they strive to win their first ADT divisional championship.

To take the collective first. the South-West have only to draw to demonstrate that the area's clubs may be down in cup terms but the region is certainly not out.

However, if the Midlands win — as they have done in six of the last eight encounters and London beat the North at the Stoop Memorial Ground, there will be three teams with two wins apiece and the title will be decided on points

Within these parameters are a number of intriguing cameos, not least the performance of Howard, the most experienced referee in England, who heard on Thursday he was no longer required on the threeman international panel.

Though there have been dark mutterings about a leg injury, it is nothing that Howard has not endured for sevday's man in international terms. He plays opposite to-day's man, Ben Clarke. The comparison will be

eral seasons. It seems strange that his refereeing can have declined so far since last season, when he was one of the leading six officials in the world. The point, too, is that Howard is now one of the few

Rugby Football Union's deci-

Talk of demotion turns thoughts, inevitably, to Back, the Leicester flanker. His duel today with Andy Robinson would have been tense in any case; now, both must carry the torch for the open-side flankers who rely on speed and ball skills rather than size and the physical impression they make

(Saptian)
SOUTH AND SOUTH-WEST DMSON
(Bisth unless stated): J Catterd; N Beat
(Northampton), P de Glarville, J Guscott,
S Morris (Gloucester): S Bernes (soptan),
R Hill: C Clark (Swanses), K Dunn
(Waspal, D Crompton, J Hall, N Redmen,
A Blackmore (Bristol), A Robinson, B
Clarkn

Scotland on trial at Melrose

BY ALAN LORIMER

UNLIKE the other home countries, Scotland have had no chance this season to test their potential national side before the five nations' championship.

Today at Melrose, however, the Scots will field what could be the nucleus of the team to face Ireland on January 16 in an A match against Italy. But with a further A game against Ireland A a week on Monday and the annual trial match on January 2 there will be other opportunities for the selectors to base their judgments before choosing the side to face Ireland at Murrayfield.

The Scotland selectors are trying to fill the gaps created by the retirements of David Sole and Sean Lineen. The loose-head position originally went to Alan Sharp but when he withdrew. Peter Jones, of Gloucester, was picked. The other change in the front row is at hooker where Corcoran takes over from Milne.

Italy are fielding eight of the side beaten 43-12 by a Welsh XV in Cardiff and II of their World Cup squad.

World Cup squad.

SCOTLAND A: G. Hastings (Watsonians);
D. Stark (Boroughman), G. Townsend (Gale), S. Hastings (Watsonians), M. Appleson (London Scotlan); C. Chaimers (Metrose), G. Armstrong (Jed-Forest); P. Jones (Goucester), I. Carcoran (Gale), P. Burnell (London Scotlan), G. Weir (Metrose), I. Smith (Goucester), S. Reid (Boroughmut), Replacements: K. Logan (String County), G. Shiel (Netrose), A. Nicol (Dundee High School HP), I. Morrison (London Scotlash), P. Weight (Boroughmut), M. Bezer (Edinburgh Acids).

M. Bezer (Edinburgh Acids). m cause (unsettings) Acades.

ITALY: L. Trojeni; P Vacceri, S Barba, I Francescato, Mercello Cuttitis; D Dominguez, U Casellato; Massimo Cuttita, G Grespen, A Piazza, S Rigo, C Checchinata, P Reale, M Glovanelli, J Gardner. Replacaments: A Marengo, C Driendi, R Caselna, F Pietrosanti, M Iommasi, M Bonomi. TABLE

before him. He has achieved it, as any player does, through hard-won experience and the sion to demote him seems a remarkable waste.

DIVISIONAL TEAMS

At the Stoop Memorial

LONDON DAVISION (Waspe unices stated): A Suzza; \$ Pfigrim, F Clough, D Hoptay (Cambridge University), D O'Lean; J Laonard (Heriequina), 5 Moore (Heriequina), 5 Moore (Heriequina), 5 Moore (Heriequina), 6 Moore (Heriequina), 7 Heriequina), 1 Cassel (Seraona), 10 Hyan. NORTH DAVISION: 1 Huster (Northerpola); T Underwood (Leicester), K Simma (Lwarpola), R Underwood (Leicester), F Grayson (Wasproo), D Moore (Orreit), 8 Mitchell (West Heriepola), M Wilmoore (Salet), M Grasmood (Waspe), D Baldwin (Salet), M Grasmood (Waspe), D Baldwin (Salet), M Grasmood (Waspe), T Rodber (Northarration), Referee: J Dumé (France).

unsertled a frame of mind as Lancashire will strive to secure home bonus

By DAVID HANDS

LANCASHIRE maintain their pursuit of a sixteenth county title - more than any other constituent body has achieved - against Cumbria in the ADT championship at Preston Grasshoppers today.

Victory, or even a draw, will ensure that they head the first division (north) with the bonus of a home tie in the semi-finals on February 20. Bob Kimmins, the Orrell

lock, returns for Lancashire who must be favoured for a substantial win, since Cumbria have lost both games this season. Lancashire were hard pressed, though, to escape the clutches of Yorkshire last weekend and the chances are that Yorkshire, who play Northumberland at Morpeth, will go through to an away tie in the semi-finals.

perennial championship

favourites, is far less assured. Although they lead the first division (south), they do so only by virtue of two one-point wins and must now overcome Hampshire, last season's semi-finalists, at Basingstoke. Should they lose by five points or more, and Middle-

sex beat Surrey, then Cornwall - who have graced the last two finals - will be out of the championship. Hampshire have made four

changes to their side, which is squarely based on the successful Havant club, and anticipate an old-fashioned forward struggle in which the secret of success will be not to concede penalties since it is goal kicks that have hauled Cornwall

through.

Middlesex, who play at London Irish, expect to con-Success for Cornwall, those firm Surrey's relegation to the

Saints' day at Stradey

TWO cup holders meet today in the fourth round of the Swalec Cup - the Welsh Cup under its new name - and one of them are not even members of the Welsh Rugby Union (David Hands writes). St Albans, from the ingloriously-named Spiott area of Cardiff, go to Stradey Park to take on Llanelli, conquerors of

Australia. St Albans, the leading team in the Welsh Districts, won the Welsh Brewers Cup last season. On the same ground. Cardiff Arms Park, later in the year, Llanelli won the national cup. Now the two meet with the "Buns", as they are known, boasting a 100 per cent record this season and proudly waving the banner of the secondclass clubs against one that has won the trophy on eight occasions.

"We'll be doing our best to win, and hopefully playing to the best of our ability, but most of all we'll be out to savour the moment of playing at Stradey Park," Allen Morris, their secretary, said.

There is only one tie involving two first-division clubs -Cardiff, top of the league, play Maesteg, second from bottom, having not met before in the

Ulster can clinch their eighth Irish inter-provincial title in nine years if they draw against or beat Leinster in Belfast this afternoon.

SCHOOLS SPORT

Fortune is playing a part for **Forest**

FOREST School collected the first half of a possible footballing double when they hosted and won the independent schools six-a-side tourna-

Two goals from Tony Lawlar and one from Quinton Fortune secured a 3-0 victory over Alleyn's in the final of the 32-team contest. Forest who have a strong Tottenham link

— Fortune is an associate schoolboy at the north London dub and another member of the squad, David Pratt, is the son of John Pratt, the former Tottenham midfield player justified their position as

In the semi-final, Forest beati St Bede's, from Manchester, and the same school stands in their way in the semi-final of the inaugural Boodle and Dunthorne Cup in the Lent term.

The second semi-final, between Shrewsbury and Charterhouse, is provisionally set for February 1. Mark Dickson, the master-in-charge at Shrewsbury, said: "It will be the biggest match we have had at the school and we expect a big crowd. We have been surprised by the number of supporters visiting schools have brought with them in the rounds played so far."

Some of the best perfor mances of the season have come from Hampton School, who went ten games unbeaten and reached the semi-finals of the Surrey Under-19 Cup with a squad strong on 15-year-olds. Although they had beaten their rivals, Wilsons, 6-1 earlier in the season, the lesson of the defeat had been heeded and Wilsons took revenge by winning 2-1.

Hampton's more notable victories include a 3-1 win over Kimbolton and a 5-3 success ALIMOUND AND A 3-3 SUCCESS

against Latymer Upper.

RESULTS: Custer-Inals: St Bede's 2,
Lancing 1; Forest 2, Strewsbury 0;
Kribotion 2, Charterbouse 1; Alleyris 2,
Bradfield D. Semi-Inals: Forest 2, St Bede's
0; Alleyris 1, Kimbotion of Final: Forest 3,
Alleyris 0,
TRIAL MATCHES (Rosheripton): Independent Schools A X1 0, Hertbreishire 1;
Independent Schools 8 X0 0, Berishire 1.



Unbeatable combination: Boardman and his revolutionary cycle in Barcelona

Richard Evans: 2.35 Ballvford.

HOVICES CHASE (£2,100: 2m) (7)

Boardman considers a change of machine

By PETER BRYAN

CHRIS Boardman, whose gold medal-winning ride at the Barcelona Olympics on the aerodynamic Lotus remains one of the great sporting images of the year, may be switching racing machines in 1993.

Boardman yesterday con-firmed he was having cycles built by other manufacturers in case a Lotus was not available to him. "I don't know at the moment what bike I'll be on next season," he said. "It would be great to ride the Lotus again; their engineers did a superb job

preparing for the Games. But someone in top management has got to start making some decisions soon about future involvement. Since the Games, they don't appear to have moved. All my sponsorship deals have to be finalised by the end of

January."
Boardman's views "surprised" Lotus. A spokesman said the company was continuing to improve the bike and was expecting to assist Boardman in his plans to attack the world one-hour record next year. "It's down to an individual to ask us how we can help him," the spokesman said.

He added that two competition Lotus bikes remained the company's property and one was being used Shaun Wallace, of Britain, in Australia. Fewer than a dozел replicas of the Boardman machine have been produced for sale; each was priced at £15,000.

Boardman, 23, faces a testing season in 1993, when the world track championships in Norway go open for the first time. He is not worried at the prospect of a rematch with Jens Lehmann, the German he beat for Olympic gold, and is considering setting up his own racing team of eight riders. They will all have to be versatile and, if necessary, I will fund them myself at

RACING

Dunwoody maintains momentum with treble

RICHARD Dunwoody continued to set a strong pace in the jockeys' championship by landing a 22-1 trebie at Uttoxeter yesterday. Now 18 clear, the Ulster-

man moved his tally to 77 with Bishops Island, Royal Piper and Its Nearly Time. Being tipped for the top seems to have handicapped

Bishops Island since he joined David Nicholson from Ireland, but the six-year-old opened his fencing account by 25 lengths in the Addison Of Newport Novices Chase. Making virtually all, Bish-ops Island, a 5-2 chance,

treated the obstacles with more respect this time, although Dunwoody believes the message still has to be



hammered home on a stiffer track.

The saturated conditions accounted for the leader, Jokester, in the Levy Board Novices Handicap Hurdle when he slipped up and crashed through the rail trying to negotiate the bottom turn. This left Royal Piper to quickly gallop clear of Show

Its Nearly Time provided the third leg in the Heathyards Engineering Handicap Chase.

"I thought he was fairly straight, but I wasn't sure because I have only one to work him with," said the successful Totnes trainer, Becky Brackenbury. Lord Relic made a sparkling debut in the St Modwen

Novices' Hurdle and he looks a horse with a big future. Successful seven times on the Flat in his native New Zealand, the 6-1 chance, ridden by Peter Scudamore, comfortably beat the favourite

Mad Thyme by three lengths. Stan Clarke, chairman of Uttoxeter racecourse, bought Lord Relic in New Zealand 18 months ago, and he has not been rushed by Martin Pipe who rates him a Cheltenham prospect.

Scuadmore and Pipe complete a double when Flying Speed landed the claiming

MANDARIN 12.30 Dutest. 1.00 Trimlough. 1.30 Pollerton's Pride. 2.05 Sound Of Jura. 2.35 Ballylord. 3.05 Arctic Teal. THUNDERER 12.30 Dutest, 1.00 Trimlough, 1.30 Miss Capulet, 2.05 Mr Setaside, 2.35 Ballylord, 3.05 Arctic Teal,

GOING: HEAVY 12.30 TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL PAST PUPILS NOVICES HURDLE (\$1,700: 2m) (8 numbers) 9-4 Dutest, 100-30 Kleako, 5-1 Argakies. 7-1 Tremandous, 8-1 Galta Be Joling, 12-1 Littletiste, 16-1 others. 1.00 RACHAEL BIRCHALL 21st BIRTHDAY

15-8 Trindough, 5-2 Zaroll, 4-1 Saunders Lass, 6-1 Solicitor's Choice, 12-1 others.

1.30 chase windows novices handicap

HURDLE (£1,595: 3m 110yd) (12) S Smith Eccles 3-1 Cine! Celt. 7-2 Pollerton's Pricie. 9-2 Miss Capulet, 6-1 Touch Ot Winter, 6-1 Stárcoat Green, 10-1 Tecnimus, 14-1 others.

☐ Matt McCourt, recovering from a heart attack, received a welcome boost at Fakenham when Driving Force won the L L Firth Memorial Handican Chase.

2.05 ARENA CONSTRUCTION NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£2,130: 3m 2f) (10)

7-2 Mr Setzsele, 4-1 Sound Ot Jura, 5-1 Lady Remaindor, 13-2 Calchagenny, 8-1 Badbury Lad, 10-1 Lucky Helmet, 12-1 Traval Temporaire, 16-1 others. 2.35 MANNY BERNSTEIN HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,603; 2m 4f 110yd) (9)

2,00.57. ZITI 41 | 1.10y(1) (9)

1 U50- MORS GUEST 211F (F.S) R Lee 6-12-0 ... Learner Etionsign (7)

3 1515 PARDON ME MILM 38 (D.B.S) K Balley 7-10-13. Mr J Durtan

4 420- VOLCANEC DARCER 203 (C.F.S) J Microte 6-10-13 B Powell

5 -005 SOMEREIGN SOUND 25 (B.G) A Turnet 5-10-9... LLawrence

6 5-21 BALLYLORO 10 (D.B.S) J J Driess 6-10-2. James Jones (3)

7 -124 SMALLS AHEAD 12 (C.B.F.G) P Brown 4-10-0. T Waln

8 0607 MILL DE LEASE 612F (CD.F.G) J Docter 7-10-0. LTK Green

9 0-0P A0U 46 (BF.G) R BEDRINGTO 6-10-0. R Begger 11-4 Ballylont, 4-1 Sovereign Sound, 9-2 Volcaric Dancer, 6-1 Smiles Abegd. 8-1 Pardon Me Mum, 12-1 Others.

3.05 orbit housing association handicap chase (E3,632: 2m 71) (3) 1 202- ZETA'S LAD 301 (C.BEF.G.S) J Upson 9-11-12 R Supple 1 21-34 ARCTIC TEAL 32 (B.C.F.G.S) D Shemeted 8-10-7 ... M Richards 3 33-6 RED ROBOO S2 (BF.F.G.S) J Educatis 8-10-0 ... R Farrant (5)

5-4 Arctic Test, 15-8 Red Rondo, 4-1 Zeta 5 Lad 3.35 LEVY BOARD NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,679: 2m) (12)

79: 2m) (12)
CHALE RICHARDS D McCain 5-11-2. Mr D McCain Jr (5)
23- GOLDINGO 224 (BF) 6 Pitez 5-11-2. R Dunis (5)
5- IM TORY 277 Afrany Properated 5-11-2. R Dunis (5)
5- KOMYTON PROSPECT 7 M W Exserbly 4-11-2. P Johnson (7)
60- LESWIGOD 224 R Lun 4-11-2. R Greens (5)
MARROB R Alchurd 5-11-2. R Greens (5)
1- REWHALL PRINCE 339 J Smith 4-11-2. Mr T Jenks (7)
1- ROYAL SHOTTO W McCainté-Cuies 6-11-2. Mr T Jenks (7)
1- ROYAL SHOTTO W McCainté-Cuies 6-11-2. Mr Novagon (3)
1- SORPLE ARTHRETTE (8 Bailey 4-11-2. G Salain (7)
2- O GOLDEN LARK 24 D McCain 5-10-11. A Writterian (7)
1- Knayton Prospect, 7-2 I'm Toby, 5-1 Goldingo, 13-2 Sample Authentic. 11-4 Krayton Prespect, 7-2 Fm Toby, 5-1 Goldings, 13-2 Simple Authoritic, 10-1 Prespect, 16-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRAINERS: M Pice, 35 winners from 98 runnerd, 35 7% T Futstor, from 26, 34.6%, M Twistor-Davies, 8 from 32, 25 0%, J J O'Notillism 16, 25.0%, T Thomson Jones, 3 from 13, 23.1%, O Stermood, from 35, 22.9% JOCKEYS: 14 Hourigan. 3 wenters from 5 rides, 60.0%; J Lower. 3 from 9, 33.9%; S Smith Eccles, 14 from 55, 25.5%; T Eley, 5 from 20, 25.0%; B Pawell, 5 from 37, 13.5%, Diane Clay, 6 from 51, 11 a%.

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Nicholson pair can star at Ascot

DAVID Nicholson can extend his lead at the top of the trainers' table by saddling a big-race double at Ascot today with Baydon Star (12.50) and Gambling Royal (1.55).

THEFT

Gambling Royal, my selec-tion for the SGB Handicap Chase, was one of the most improved horses in training last season when he won his first five races and finished a creditable third to Tipping Tim at the Cheltenham

He has sustained that progress this season, winning easily on his Kempton reappearance and finishing a commendable fifth to Sibton Abbey, beaten 14 lengths, in the Hennessy Gold Cup just ten days later.

That race probably came too quickly for him after Kempton and he has had three weeks in which to recover from his

Newbury exertions.

Gambling Royal races off a mark of 139 here and is only 21b out of the handicap, a remarkable statistic considering he began last season winning off 93 at Worcester. He may not have stopped

improving yet.
Miinnehoma, last season's top staying novice chaser, looks the main danger and he ... MANDARIN

must win this off 10st 8lb if he is to maintain his ante-post position as second favourite for the Gold Cup.

However, while he may have needed the run when second to stable companion Run For Free in the Rehearsal Chase at Chepstow two weeks ago, that performance was slightly disappointing and Gambling Royal is just preferred.



Yorkshire trainer Peter Easterby and his jockey Lorcan

Rowlandsons Jewels makes a quick reappearance after winning at Doncaster last Saturday but he was 25 lengths behind Gambling Royal in sixth at Newbury and can have little chance of turning the tables over this shorter

Further back in seventh that day was the disappointing Captain Dibble, who appeared to be found out by the testing ground. After yesterday's rain, he will face similar worse conditions today.



Wyer raid Ascot today with talented stayer Burgoyne

Of Toby Balding's pair, Romany King appears in better form this term than Cool Ground but he finished 25 lengths behind Jodami when third to Run For Free at Haydock and is held by Gambling Royal on a line through the subsequent Hennessy run-

Baydon Star can initiate the Nicholson double and extend his winning sequence to four in the HSS Hire Shops Hurdle.

Yet to be extended in victories at Ascot, Newbury and Aintree this season, this progressive five-year-old should hold too many guns for

Nicky Henderson's gelding, so impressive when beating Halkopous on good going at Cheltenham in March, has yet to show he acts on this sort of ground and was beaten a long zy when fifth to Baydon Star's stable companion, Mighty Mogul, at Newbury three weeks ago. Burgoyne is napped to gain

(all-weather). WEDNESDAY: No racing. compensation for his luckless run at Newbury where he THURSDAY: No racing. gamely beat Tyrone Bridge by a neck, only to lose the race in the stewards' room.

FRIDAY: No racing, FRIDAY: No racing, SATURDAY: Kempton Perk, Wetherby, Sedgefield, Hurtingdon, Market Rasen, Wolverhampton, Newton Abbot, Wincanton. Peter Easterby's raider is now 4lb better off with Tyrone

Top Australian set to ride for Sangster in Britain next year

By Richard Evans, racing correspondent

MICK Dittman, the top jockey in Australia, is set to ride in Britain next year for Robert

The four-times Sydney champion discussed the move with the owner of Manton just over a month ago and a deal should be concluded in March.

"I am very hopeful he will be in Britain next year." Sangster told me from Barbados yesterday. "He has indicated in principle he would like to come."

Dittman's arrival would not only be a much-needed boost for British racing but a tremendous coup for Sangster, who has never been afraid to hire top riding talent from

He originally brought over Steve Cauthen from the United States, Brent Thomson from Australia, and flew in the legendary Bill Shoemaker to ride Hawaiian Sound in the 1978 Derby.

"Dittman is a superb rider. You are talking about another Scobie Breasley, George Moore or Ron Hutchinson, although he is probably nearer to Moore than anyone else." Sangster said.

"So far this season he is leading Sydney jockey with 31 winners and 61 placed horses from 108 rides. He's the right age, 41, and he puts a horse in the right position in a race.

"He's a very strong rider. He's not known as The Enforcer for nothing."

A glimpse of Dittman's forceful style of riding was shown recently on British television when he partnered Naturalism to second place in

the Japan Cup - but it could

pose problems here. Dittman will almost certainly have to restrict his use of the whip if he is to avoid the wrath of racecourse stewards. Sangster has no fears on that score. "He's a very adaptable rider. He rode a brilliant race in Japan."

In recent seasons Sangster has adopted a policy in Britain of using the best jockey available, but that has proved increasingly difficult in

practice. "So many of the best jockeys have been signed up by the Maktoums, including

2.15 TOLLERTON NOVICES HURDLE

2.45 ELVASTON NOVICES CHASE

10 -4P4 CANTRETOUT 11 Mex 5 Smith 6-10-11 11-5 Light Vensor, 9-4 Urizon, 3-1 Daming Valley, 14-1 Corrects, 20-1 others.

3.15 CLIFTON HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2.118: 2m 5f 110vd) (13)

(£2,647; 3m 110yd) (10)

Walter Swinburn, so it is increasingly difficult to get one of the top five riders." Indeed. Sangster has attempted to keep his approach to Dittman under wraps for

fear that the Maktoums would step in to poach him. Why I have not said anything until now is that one finds the Arabs follow whatever I do. I lost Cauthen, Eddery

and Carson that way." A retainer with Sangster will give Dittman the pick of 80 horses which the leading British owner has in training. most of them with Peter

Chapple-Hyam at Manton. The arrival of another top rider from abroad may cause ripples in the weighing room. Jeff Lloyd, the British-born South African jockey, had a working holiday here brought to an abrupt end last summer

after some jockeys com-plained about losing rides. "I don't think there will be any problem if everything is done early enough. We are in the entertainment business and we need to get people through the turnstiles," Sangster added.

ASCOT THUNDERER 12.15 Lake Teersen.

MANDARIN 12.15 Lake Teereen. 12.50 Baydon Star. 1.20 BURGOYNE (nap). 1.55 Gambling Royal. 2.30 Last 'O' The Bunch.

12.50 Baydon Star.

1.20 Muse. 1.55 Gambling Royal. 2.30 Last 'O' The Bunch, 3.00 BELLEZZA (nap). RICHARD EVANS: 2.30 Last 'O' The Bunch.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 1,55 MIINNEHOMA.

mo-anges ____

12.15 ROVACABIN NOEL NOVICES CHASE (Grade II: £9,100: 2m 3f 110yd) (7 runners) | 101 | 004-121 | LAKE TEEREEN 86 (D.F.O.S.) (Mrs. A Granthum) R Romp 7-11-7 | 7 Granthum 82 | 102 | PP-1339 | GRANNEE BRAKE 7 (B.D.G.S.) (Mrs. A Granthum) R Romp 7-11-7 | C Lieuwshyn 85 | 103 | 1802-P2 | LA CERN-GA 30 (CD.F.S) (Oute of Almolt) G Backing 8-11-3 | A Maguine 86 | 0012/8 | LITTLE-NEPPER 21 [F.S) (Mrs. J Moudd) D Nicholson 7-11-3 | R Dunmondy 105 | 0087-10 | RETAIL RURNEER 45 (CD.G.) (M Prind) J Gibert 7-11-8 | D Muschly 86 | 0087-10 | RETAIL RURNEER 45 (CD.G.) (M Prind) J Gibert 7-11-8 | J Railion 73 | J Railion 73 | J Railion 74 | J Railion 74 | J Railion 74 | J Railion 75 | J Railion BETTING: 11-5 Late Teernin, 3-1 Read Romon, 3-1 La Cenaga, Unstablishin, 5-1 Liste-Nipper, 10-1 obsess. 1991; MEETING ADADONED - PROST

FORM FOCUS

LAKE TEEREEN best Dont Tail The Wile 15 in an 11-turneer novice classe at Foliastore (2m 51, 500).

GRAVIEE BRANC 22 60 og 10 to thompst Caber in a grade it novice chase at Unifield (3m, 500).

LA CHANGA NI 2nd of 11 to Menebusk in a novice chase NV 2nd of 11 to Menebusk in a novice chase at Watcamen (2m 51, youd), UTILS
Stillation: LAKE TEEREEN

12.50 HSS HIRE SHOPS HURDLE 130-3 HASHAR 18 (D.F) (W Brown) D Esworth 4-10-12... BETTING: 4-7 Region Sur, 5-1 Corin Hill. 6-1 Flown, 16-1 Kaher, Hasher.

BAYDOM STAR bent Jurgle Nate 71 is 6-normer a handscap handle at Anime (2m. 110yd. good to brin). The start of the start o

BBC1 1.20 YOUNGMANS LONG WALK HURDLE (Grade I: £23,191: 3m 1f 110yd) (9 runners) BETTRIC: 2-1 Burgayne, 9-4 Muse. 11-2 Tyrace Bridge. 10-1 Super Sense, True State, 14-1 others.

FORM FOCUS BURGOYNE beal TYRONE BRIDGE (4th worse off)
a reck, planning subsequently reversed, in the 9turner gratio (ii) Alzo Long Distance Hurdle at
Newtony (3m 110/d, soil) Previously, beal Manager Warnet last time out (2m 4t
110/d, soil) 9110/d, soil) 911

1.55 SGB HANDICAP CHASE (\$24,338: 3m 110yd) (8 runners)

| 11 | 14-44 | COOL SPOUND 14 (D.G.S) (Whitcombs Manor Racing Ltd) of Bridge 10-12-0 A Magestre 63 | 402 A/111-2 | MRNRSHOMA 14 (D.B.F.E.S.) (F. Start) M Pipe 9-10-8 | P Scotsmoore 68 | 403 42-615 ROMANY (DNG 31 (CD.E.S.) (L. Cameu, 6 Baiding 8-10-7 | C Bridge 97 | A/11-12 | C Bridge 97 | C Brid

Long Immolicus; Gambing Royal 9-12, Rowlandsons Jewels, 9-10, Persons Green 9-2.
BETTME: 2-1 Minnestona, 11-4 Cymbling Royal, 5-1 Rowany King, 6-1 Captum Dubbin, 12-1 Persons Gruin.
18-1 Cool Growni, Kildima, 20-1 Rowlandsons Jewels.

FORM FOCUS

Administration A 120 Date of A to Plan For From on the grade in Refugersal Handicap Chaze as Chapton (2m., heavy), with COOL, GRICIARD (some terms) 33 4th, Sea Beadury, Star Vel in the 18-framer poper I Sun Allheres Chaze in Deamenton in heal spart act season (2m., pool), with CAPTAIN DB-SLE (7th beign oil) 265 Six ROMANY KING best Pencirs Boy 27 in a 8-more Handicap Capter at Enter on penultimate start (3m.11, good) XILDMAD best Paper Tilly 7 in a 8-more Handicap Capter at Antiere on penultimate start (3m.11, good) in soft, with COOL SPOUND 4th when feel 13th, CAPTAIN

IMBRE issue Receive 1944 on a 7-currer hamilton chass at Whogarton on penulthrate start (3m 11 110yd, good). GAMBRENER ROYAL, 14945 5th of 13 to Shiph Abbey in the grads in Hemosey Copies. Gold Cup at Newbury (3m 2 110yd, 50th, with ROWALANDSONS JEWELS (state terms) 25 6th and CAPTAIN DIBBLE a poor 7th. ROWALANDSONS JEWELS transcript 10 in an 4-currer tending chass at Donastes (3m 2, poot). PARSONS GREEN ham for the form It in a 4-currer handless chass at Donastes (3m 2, poot). PARSONS GREEN ham for the form It in a 4-currer handless chass at Newbury (3m 4, set). 2.30 FROBMORE HANDICAP CHASE (£10,143: 2m) (7 runners)

601 61-51-51 (7 House)
602 11-71-32 YOUNG BERG 14 (D.S.F.S) (Lackswood Reckey Club) M Meath 8-12-8... J Raillon 97
503 11-71-32 YOUNG BERG 14 (D.S.F.) (Recent) M H Essarby 8-11-2... L. Wyer (M)
503 42-71-5 CYPHRATE 28 (D.S.S.) (Alex Smith 8 Asses Recing) M Plos 8-11-2... P Southmore 92
504 313-411 JAST 17 THE BURCH 10 (D.F.S.S.) (S Additionally 6 Richards 8-10-11 ... N Docytry 97
505 6221-5 ARDBRIN 28 (D.F.S.S.) (Mrs. M Sonot-Tarnet) Tilley 9-10-0... D Marphy 98
608 9-9-4511 BETTER COUNTRY 28 (CD.F.G.S.) (Mrs. A lestant) R Hodges 8-10-0... W Index 94
507 14P-406 POETIC SEM 8 (CD.F.G.S.) (Lack Harris Mrs. 8 Smith 7-10-0... A Margaine 94

Long hapdisect: Action 9-10, Scalar Country 9-7, Points Sum 9-2. BETTING: 8-4 Lest 10' The Busch, 3-1 Cyphone, 8-1 Seder Country, 13-2 Ardonin, 7-1 Young Banz, 16-1 others. FORM FOCUS

REDUNDART PAL best The Mesical Priest 4741 in a 6-runner list to the Mesical Priest 4741 in a 6-runner list to the Mesical Priest 4741 in a 6-runner list to the Mesical Priest 4741 in a 6-runner list to Logarithm in a herotop chase at Welsenby (2m. 50.00). The BUNCH best Sarkstand of in a 6-runner resolucion chase in the Mesical Priest (2m. 500). The BUNCH best Sarkstand of in a 6-runner resolucion chase in the Mesical Priest (2m. 500). The BUNCH best Sarkstand of in a 6-runner resolucion chase in the Mesical Priest (2m. 500). The BUNCH best Sarkstand of in a 6-runner need chase in the Mesical Priest (2m. 500) and in a 6-runner resolucion chase in the Mesical Priest (2m. 500) and in a 6-runner list the Mesical Priest (2m. 500) and in a 6-runner list the Mesical Priest (2m. 500) and in a 6-runner list the Mesical Priest (2m. 500) and in a 6-runner list the Mesical Priest (2m. 500) and in a 6-runner list the Mesical Priest (2m. 500) and in a 6-runner list the Mesical Priest (2m. 500) and in a 6-runner list the Mesical Priest (2m. 500) and in a 6-runner list the Mesical Priest (2m. 500) and in a 6-runner resolucion chase in the Mesical Priest (2m. 500) and in a 6-runner resolucion chase in the Mesical Priest (2m. 500) and in a 6-runner resolucion chase in the Mesical Priest (2m. 500) and in a 6-runner resolucion chase in the Mesical Priest (2m. 500) and in a 6-runner resolucion chase in the Mesical Priest (2m. 500) and in a 6-runner resolucion chase in the Mesical Priest (2m. 500) and in a 6-runner resolucion chase in the Mesical Priest (2m. 500) and in a 6-runner resolucion chase in the Mesical Priest (2m. 500) and in a 6-runner resolucion chase in the Mesical Priest (2m. 500) and in a 6-runner resolucion chase in the Mesical Priest (2m. 500) and in a 6-runner resolucion chase in the Mesical Priest (2m. 500) and in a 6-runner resolucion chase in the Mesical Priest (2m. 500) and in a 6-runner resolucion chase in the Mesical Priest (2m. 500) and in a 6-runner resolucion chase in the Mesical Priest (2m. 500) and in

3.00 HAMPTON COURT HANDICAP HURDLE (Amateurs: £2,896: 2m 4f) (8 runners)

| Kernel | Republic | Long hendicap: Diddley 8-6.

SETTING: 2-1 Bellezza, 4-1 Pennas Pet, 5-1 Pennan Me Mixm, 6-1 Viouvoy Josev, 13-2 Sydmonton, 7-1 Just An Happini, 76-1 Tim Sike Boy, 193-1 Diddiny.

FORM FOCUS

PEANUTS PET 101 3rd of 9 to Valtinat in a haself-cap hardle at Cachenham (2m 116yd, good to soit), Previously, heat Seon 5 in a 3-monter hand-sob burdle at Newcaste Carb 110yt, good to farm).

ALST AS HOPERIL best liferant in Spring 12 in a 4-monter statics' handleap hardle at Kempton (2m 31 110yd, good to soit).

STUBBLIETA STORM DESTRUCTION OF STUBBLIETA STORM S

COURSE SPECIALISTS JOCKEYS TRAINERS Mrs 5 Smith M Pipe D Essenti N Casalar G Balating R Hodges 27.8 25.9 20.0 16.7 16.7 14.3

1.55 MAGLITHE AND BATTY PLASTERING CONTRACTORS HANDICAP

| 21-2111 DAWSON CITY 14 (D.F.G.S) (6 Streets) M H Easterby 5-11-7 R 6 smitty | 21-2111 DAWSON CITY 14 (D.F.G.S) (6 Streets) M H Easterby 5-11-7 Mr S Swiers 51 S 841-061 SAFTORIUS 15 (D.G.S) (M Pophern) T Thermson Jones 5-11-7 H Dankes 78 4 D70/062 SPONGON LIGHT 8 (D.F.S) (L Bindson) J George 1-11-7 T Rend 5 S 1353-11 SYBILIN 29 (D.F.G.S) (Marquest de Montalia) Jammy Fitzpanid 6-11-7 C 6 Grant 95 0-0/2622 VAYRIJA 11 (GF.G.S) (L Helsens) J Helsens 7-11-7 A Orleny 76 7 #535/23 TRAINANTC LAURA 11 (Mass Stean J Blant) Ms S Taylor 7-11-2 D Berniey 50

1991: CLAY COUNTY 5-11-7 B Storey (5-4 last) R Allan 10 ran

BETTIME: Evens Thistie Motorch, 2-1 Hudson Bay Trades, 5-1 Kenvelda Cantrol, Hot State, 8-1 Assessa, 14-1 Major Bell, 20-1 subers.

1991: ABNESATION 8-10-7 D J Moliet (3-1) J Johnson 20 ran

☐ George White, the Alnwick permit holder, saddled his first winner under National Hunt That's made my Christmas.

and there'll be a party

BETTING: 8-11 Gale Agen, 15-8 Old Applejack, 7-2 Specialide Remibler. 1981: SWORD BEACH 7-11-8 R Caminy (10-11 law) All H Essiethy 5 can

BETTING: 5-4 Sybilin, 11-8 Dawson Calv, 13-2 Saturius. 12-1 Vagrum. 16-7 Military Honour, 20-1 others.

2.25 NORTHUMBERLAND GOLD CUP NOVICES CHASE (Grade I: £14,416: 2m 110yd) (7 runners)

HURDLE (\$2,322: 2m 4f) (4 runners)

2.55 WOODCOCK NOVICES HURDLE

3.25 GAMEBIRD HANDICAP CHASE (\$3,124: 2m 4) (3 runners)

winner under National Hunt rules when Hardihero won

the Hutton Wandesley Handi tonight."

37.5 31.3 25.7 24.1 16.2 14.8

(£1,842: 2m 4l) (14 runners)

NOTTINGHAM

cant that Lorcan Wyer heads

south rather than partner

Young Benz represents Easterby and Wyer in the

Frogmore Handicap Chase

but fellow northern challenger

Last 'O' The Bunch, the easy

winner of his last two starts at

At Newcastle, the grade one

Northumberland Gold Cup

should principally concern Dawson City and Sybillin,

with the former given a nar-

The easy winner of his last three races. Dawson City was

particularly impressive when

accounting for Strong Beau at

Aintree and may be better

suited by the give underfoot

than his main rival, who has

yet to win on anything worse

Racing next week

MONDAY: Edinburgh, Lingfield

TUESDAY: Hereford, Lingfield Park

than good to soft going.

Haydock, is preferred.

row vote.

Dawson City at Newcastle.

12.45 Monsieur Le Cure. 1.15 Stirrup Cup. 1.45 Storm Alert. 2.15 Brambleberry. 2.45 Light Veneer. 3.15 Fairfields Cone. THUNDERER

12.45 Monsleur La Cure. 1.15 Stimup Cup. 1.45 Storm Alert. 2.16 King's Treasurs. 2.45 Urizen. 3.15

GOING: SOFT (GOOD TO SOFT PATCHES ON CHASE COURSE)

12.45 PLUNTREE NATIONAL HUNT HOVICES

11-4 Monolaur ta Cora, 7-2 Chuck Curiey, 9-2 Simin Royal, 6-1 Mr Shipa, 7-1 Catile Town, 8-1 Tea-Lady, 16-1 Den De Cyon, Top State, 12-1 others. 1.15 STAN MELLOR HANDICAP CHASE

1 U43- RYMER KING 338 (F.Q.B) J. Chung 10-11-12... D Bridgester 2 - 84F TRUSTY PRIEND 32 (8.6) J. Esterite 10-11-11... N Wilsonson 3 - 118 SURGEAN TALBOT 14 (0.8) A Jones 11-11-8... B Upton 4 P-5 THE FURTHER 11 (F.S) The 7-10-12... M Hostigue (3) 5 1312 NO GRANDAD 11 (6) J. Upson 8-10-12... M T Figure (7) 8 P-11 STRRRP CUP 24 (6.5) C Espeto 8-10-8... M J. Osborne 7 0444 PACIFIC SOUND 14 (6.5) Mis S Smith 9-10-6... M A Pizzyenid 8 10-4 SURFER STREAM 25 (F.G) P. Marghy 8-10-3... E Narghy 9-10-9... E Narghy 10-10-1... W Winthinston 10 - 20U PICCHANTED MAN 9 (F.S) R Len 8-10-0... In 10-1... W Winthinston 10 - 20U PICCHANTED MAN 9 (F.S) R Len 8-10-0... D Tong 11 - 0PF FAST CRUSE 22 (6.5) E Outon 17-10-0....... A Larrect (5) 1 Single Cas. 4-4 (in Carniel 5-1 Surbezon Talbot. 11-2 Turb Friend, 6-1 5-1 Shrup Cup, 4-1 Ho Garnied, 5-1 Surbeam Talbot, 11-2 Trusty Friend, 6-1 house Kool, 6-1 Garner String, 10-1 Papilic Sound, The Fortes, 12-1 offers.

1.45 COLWICK INTERMEDIATE CHASE (£2,454: 2m) (4)

4.5 Shorm Alert, 5.2 Welch Bard, 7.2 Break Flutter, 12.1 Northern Jinks.

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRAMERS: O Marroy Smith, 3 venuers from 10 numers, 30.0% C Brooks, 3 from 14, 21.4%; T Bill, 3 from 15, 20.0%; K Balley, 5 from 27, 10.5%, N Trades. 7 from 41, 17.1%, Jarray Flagorial, JOCKEYS: 8 Smith Eroles, 6 visines from 40 folds, 15.5%, S Tomar, 4 from 27, 14.9%; J Otherne, 4 from 33, 12.1%. Only Qualifiers.

Parties Me Mure ross at Uttomier (2.35) unless abandonal, states trainer Chief Celt runs at Utawater (1.30) unless abandoned, states trainer 7-2 Forfietts Cose, 4-1 Visit Wissess, 9-2 Jungs, 5-1 Signor Sassle, 6-1 Andrew's First, 8-1 Spotsumo, 10-1 Free Justice, 12-1 others.

Royal Athlete returns

ROYAL Athlete, forced to miss the last two sons with training troubles, returns to action in the Clifton Handicap Hurdle at Notting-

ham today after a 32-month lay-off.

Jenny Pinnan's gelding looked set for a glittering career in top chases after five victories over fences during his novice campaign including the Mumm Club Chase at Aintree.

TUNGE EDIPARK

MANDARIN 12.10 First Fling, 12.40 Major Triumph. 1.10 Cretosa Dancer. 1.40 Panikin. 2.10 Malenoir. 2.40 El Volador. 3.10 Killick. THUNDERER

12.10 First Fling. 12.40 Patsy Grimes. 1.10 Bel Baraka. 1.40 Very Dicey. 2.10 Malenoir. 2.40 Mr Wishing Well. 3.10 Cuinzil Martin.

Draw: 6F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

12.10 NORTHERN RACING SERVICES MAIDEN CLASHING STAKES (Div I: £1,182: 1m 2f) (8 runners)

15-8 First Filon, 7-2 Repai Rose, 9-2 Carlowitz, 11-2 Dancing Bost, 6-1 Lyph, Don't Warry, 10-1 others. 8 2006 DON'T WORRY 21 J Prests 3-7-13.....

12.40 LYDIA MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-0; £1,245; 71) (10) 1 86 BALLACASCADE 10 P Haston 9-0

3 D202 PERSAN GUSHER 21 (E) S Dow 9-0 T Cuchen 7
4 (1400 ARAWA 48 D Marks B-8. S McCarthy (7) 6
5 4200 BELLE SORREE 145 (E) S Dow 8-9 S Dawson 4
6 GISTON BELLE 9 M Usiner 8-9 G Bardwell 1
7 22 MAJOR FRUMENT 9-9 BEARDY 9-9 W Pages 2
8 5505 MARWELL BOTZO 19 W Wigneron B-9 U Million B
9 422 PAISY GRIMES 10 M Maggerings 8-9 Dean McKoown 5
10 5000 UNIVERSAL 77 K Quantification From 8-9 D Biggs 9
11-8 Persen Guster, 17-4 Major Trumpin, 4-1 Paisy Grimes, 7-1 Drenii Dancer, 10-1 Buile Soine, 14-1 Orbers.

(£1,842: 2ml 4l) (14 numers)

1 88-1321 Numbers 84Y TRADER 18 (CD,6,5) (P N Curts) P Beaumont 5-11-5 Mrs A Farcill 90

2 382-011 THISTLE MONARCH 14 (5) (Juseph A Gordon) G Rutands 7-11-6 C Grand 83

3 203-5 AMOTHER NUM 18 (Mrs. J M Developh) J Jefferson 6-11-0 G McCourt 80

4 ATTADALE 110F (C McGare) L Lungo 4-11-0 T Record 50

5 DP- BREAK THE HABIT 231 (T 86sson) T 6lbson 5-11-0 J Burts (7)

6 OPP QUALEY SOME 806 (6 Turner) Miles S Tunter 6-11-0 K Johnson 5
7 OCZ-000 REARLESS KNNO 7 (F Robson) F Robson 6-11-0 A Drinney 74

8 QUA HOT STAR 21 (H Ferrandes) § Moore 6-11-0 J Calleghan 95

9 10-14 KONAVEKTA CONTROL 14 (8F.5) (Romeisa Lio) J J Over 5-11-0 A Dobbin (3) 5

10 4 MAJOR BELL 18 (A Winitario) A Williams 4-11-0 M Bertisy (3) 5

11 5-P STARMINE 11 (J Parties) J Farties 6-11-0 M Bertisy (3) 6

12 064546 MSS CORVARO 308 (I Belietty) J Walkensight 5-10-9 P Midgley (5) 85

13 0-05 SARDIAA SAITH 23 (Mrs F1 Walkon) F Walkon 5-10-9 B Storye 63

14 SCARLET BERRY (R Bruss) R Bress 4-10-9 B Storye (6 Drosenickie - SECARLET BERRY (R Bruss) R Bress 4-10-9 C Drosenickie - SECARLET BERRY (R Bruss) R Bress 4-10-9 C Drosenickie - SECARLET BERRY (R Bruss) R Bress 4-10-9 C Drosenickie - SECARLET BERRY (R Bruss) R Bress 4-10-9 C Drosenickie - SECARLET BERRY (R Bruss) R Bress 4-10-9 C Drosenickie - SECARLET BERRY (R Bruss) R Bress 4-10-9 C Drosenickie - SECARLET BERRY (R Bruss) R Bress 4-10-9 C Drosenickie - SECARLET BERRY (R Bruss) R Bress 4-10-9 C Drosenickie - SECARLET BERRY (R Bruss) R Bress 4-10-9 C Drosenickie - SECARLET BERRY (R Bruss) R Bress 4-10-9 C Drosenickie - SECARLET BERRY (R Bruss) R Bress 4-10-9 C Drosenickie - SECARLET BERRY (R Bruss) R Bress 4-10-9 C Drosenickie - SECARLET BERRY (R Bruss) R Bress 4-10-9 C Drosenickie - SECARLET BERRY (R Bruss) R Bress 4-10-9 C Drosenickie - SECARLET BERRY (R Bruss) R Bress 4-10-9 C Drosenickie - SECARLET BERRY (R Bruss) R Bress 4-10-9 C Drosenickie - SECARLET BERRY (R Bruss) R Bress 4-10-9 C Drosenickie - SECARLET BERRY (R Bruss) R Bress 4-10-9 C Drosenickie - SECARLET BER 1,10 NORTHERN RACING SERVICES MAIDEN CLAIMING STAKES (DIV II: £1,182: 1m 2f) (8)

2-1 Simon Bits, 5-2 Bel Bassia, 3-1 Creases Dancer, 4-1 King of Normandy, 8-1 Tear Aleas, 12-1 orbers.

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRANSPS. P Cole. 19 winners from 96 numers, 19,8%, D Estworth, 8 from 42, 19,0%; D Arbushnot, 7 from 42, 16,7%, M Maggerigge, 3 from 18, 16,7%, J Jackins, 9 from 58, 16 1%, R U'Sulfinat, 13 from 90, 14,4%. JOCKEYS: N Day, 15 witners from 75 ridge, 20.0%; T chains. 44 from 280, 19.1%; Deen McKeysea, 18 from 100, 16.0%, M Hills, 19 from 120, 15.0%; J Williams, 37 from 269, 13.6%; G Carter, 21 from 169, 12.4%.

1.40 ATROPOS HANDICAP

6-4 Indian Endeavour, 4-1 Very Dicey, 6-1 Balated, Publish, 7-1 Live Lagend, 10-1 Trathiul Image, 12-1 pagess.

2.10 HOTSPUR HANDICAP (£1,443; 2m) (13)

1,443: 2m) (13)

1 3400 GO SOUTH 25J (B.CD.F.G.S) J Jeskins 8-10-0 N Day 7

2 -260 HUNTING GROUND 43 R Peacuté 49-6 W Ryan 8

1 100 THE LAST BAPTESS 28J LCD.F.G. Rela 49-4 P INCEDEN (7) 9

4 0400 SMARTIE LEE 117 (B.C.F) P Cole 5-8-11 T Outre 6

5 0002 MALEROR 17 (V.D.S) R Spicer 48-9 Dean McKapuri 4

6 2416 PERSIAN PLESCE 73 (S) A Bahry 3-9-3 Dean McKapuri 4

6 2416 PERSIAN PLESCE 73 (S) A Bahry 3-9-3 Dain Sibson 2

7 0-60 SAFETY 10 (B.F) J Wahn 5-8-0 Dean McKapuri 4

8 2400 SULY HART 17 H Collegangle 6-7-12 Julie Sibson 2

9 4007 PAMATHAMAROS 44J (D.F) G Ham 7-7-7 N Wilson (7) 13

10 -000 BURRACOPPI 10 Mrs B Warms 5-7-7 G Bardwell 10

11 -004 RIYADH USHTS 16 M Uben 7-7-7 Kim McDonnell (7) 12

2 0505 FAUSTHLIEE LADY 8 (B) G Ham 3-7-7 Authorists Armes (7) 11

Authorists Armes (7) 11 2-1 Malenut, 4-1 Pessien Flaces, 5-1 Go Squth, 6-1 Smarte Lee, 7-1 The Last Empress, 8-1 Hunting Ground, 12-1 others.

2.40 WITCH OF ENDOR HANDICAP (£1,224: 1m 4f) (12)

13-8 El Volador, 9-4 Mr Wisteng Well, 5-1 Auwiller, 6-1 Keen Vision, 8-1 Membersyttin, 12-1 physis.

3.10 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER TROPHY HANDICAP (Qualifier: £3,106: 1m) (12) 3-1 Natick, 4-1 Tadox, 5-1 Nobby Barnes, 6-1 Charain Martin, 8-1 Subset Strip, 10-1 Veloce, Burkly's Friend, Scots Law, 12-1 Problems Ar., 20-1 others.

Blinkered first time LINGFIELD PARK: 12.10 First Fling: 1.10 Monseome, Cameo Shedes: 3.10 Blue Drifter.

YESTERDAYS RESULTS

Uttoxeter

Going: heavy
12.30 (2m 4/110yd hdle) 1, Lord Reile (P. Scudemons, 6-11, 2, Mad Thymo (6-4 lay),
3, Groonwich Bombi (7-11) 15 ran 3, 81 M. Pipe, Tote SS 00, 52.20, 51.20, 52.10 DF 57 SO CSF: 514.97 ET 50 CSF: £14 97
1,00 (2m Sf ct) 1, Winabuck (D Merockit), 15-21, 2 Democratic Boy (20-1), 3, Mairrons Legend (14-1) Enant knight (11-10 for 6 ran 10), dist R Dickin Tote £9 40, £4 40, £4 00 DF (50) 60 CSF 598 41
1,30 (2m Indie) 1, Flying Speed (P Soudamore, 2-1 fav), 2, Custicar Morrony (9-4), 3, Reiton (6-11 1-2 in n. N.R. Buck Bet, Amoureuse, 151, 154 M Pipe Tote £4 00, £1 50, £1.90, £1 70, DF £4 80 CSF £7.23
2,00 (2m 71 cht) 1, Sishoos istend (F

2.00 (2m 7f ch) 1, Sishops island if Durwoody, 5-2), 2, Father Time (10-1); 1, Camedy Say (14-1) Tena 7-4 in-9 ran NR: Forget The Rost 25I, SI D Nicholson Total: C3 S0, C1 70, C1 30, E3 00. DF. CT220 CS* C243 2.30 (2m hds) 1, Royal Piper (R Durwooth, 2-1 lav), 2, Show The Rag (9-4), 3, The Tran Ghoss (20-1), 8 ran 12, 20, 25 Berons, Tota: 22.50, 21, 10, 51, 90, 52, 50 DF: 23 70, CSF 128 69, Tricast; 538, 10 DF: 23 70. CSF DS: GS. Incast; SS.110 S. S.00 (2m ctr) 1, is Aleaty Time (R Durwoody, 6-3); 2, Sebeld River (10-11 tay); 3, Famous Lad (8-1) 3 mm. NR Boutzdenoft 2t, dist. Mrs R Brackenbury. Tota: \$1.50. DF. \$1.50. CSF: \$2.53 Top \$1.80 DF 17.50 CS* 22.53 8.30 (2m help) 1, Nitrogen (J Ostorne, 11-4); 2, Beachy Head (3-1), 3, Trus Gold (8-1), Saffach 5-2 fav 7 rsn. 21, 301. Jimmy Pizgerald 701e* 23.90; £1.60, £1.60 DF: £5.60. CSF: £10.83

Fakenham Going: act 12.40 (2m 51 hde) 1, Brakta Boy (M P Fizgaraid, 6-1); 2, Mety (9-4 p.4ay); 3, Joher Jack (20-1); Solid Steel 9-4 p.4ay; 8 pm. 51, 31, M Emittacid, Total 210 10, £2.00, £1.10, £2.50, DF; £8.30, CSF £20 30, Theast, £298, 18.

2229.16.
1.10 (2m 110yd helis) 1. Sharpgun (G Moore, 14-1); 2. Misbithui (8-1); 3. Early Bresze (5-1 p-lay); 4. Weekday Cross (17-2). Specific Whisper 5-1 p-lay 16 ran NR: Suppery Mex. 11, 21 A Moore. Totar 221.70; 23.40, 23.10, 22.20, 21.60. DF. 236.60. CSF. £121.84 Tricust 2508.84 After a stewards' angury, result stood.
1.40 (3m cn) 1, Shigheode (A Carroll, 7-4 lay); 2. Jimster (5-1), 3. Point Medie (17-2) 6 ran. NR: Jimster 12, 61 Mrs. P. Sty. Totar 22.50; £1 60, 22.50. DF. 24.50. CSF. 59.32.
2.10 (2m 110yd ch.). Driving Force (6 21.50; £1 60, £2.50; DF £4.50; CSF. £9.32 2.10 (2m 110yd ch) 1, Driving Force (3 McCourl, 5-1); 2, Deliction (11-10 tay); 3, Mc-Pew (5-1); 8 ran. 3/s/, 21, M McCourl, Tote, £5.20; £1 80; £1.70; £1.20 DF £7.30; CSF: £11.84 Theast; £29.52; 2.40 (2m 51.110yd ch) 1, Not 8o Soon (5 McNetl, 7-1), 2, interpretation (9-4 p-tay); 3, Dundsoms (9-4 p-tay); 8 ran. NR. Spikey, 11, 10i. K Basley, Tote £3.40; £1.30; £1.60; £1.20; DF £11.30 CSF: £24.39 3.10 [2m 110yd chlet 1, Scarlet Express (A Maguirs, 16-1); 2, Golden Gunner (2-1 g-fav); 3, San Lorenzo (2-1 p-tay); 7 ran. NR-Rarly's Dream, NR, 6, 8 Richmond, Tote £14.20; £3.90; £2.10 DF £32.80; CSF £49.10 Theast, £59.14

Catterick Bridge

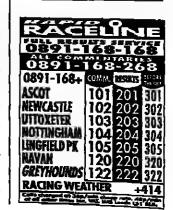
CettleFICK BROGE

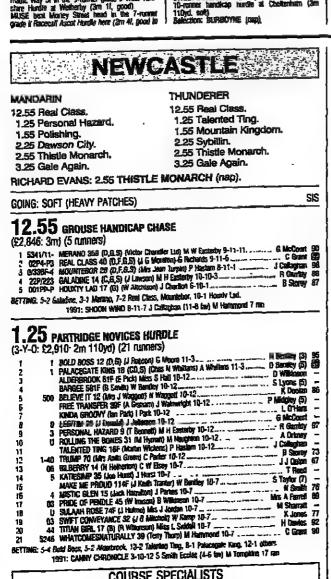
Georg: soft

12.50 (2m chj 1, Asrkus U Callaghan, 6-1),
2. Jammy MacJammy (5-2), 3, Hutner (16-1)
Beaucadeau 7-4 fav. 11 ran. NF: No Reply
9, 2. G Moore Tota. 06 30; 52 40, 61.50,
52.60. DF: 518.20, CSF 527 04
1.20 (2m holle) 1, Saskda'u Herro (J J Cuann,
10-1) 2, Shennon King (7-2), 3, Rainheim
(7-4 lav) 12 ran. NF: Copper Hall SI, vil J
Bottomley Tote: 512.00; 52.70, 51.50,
51.50 DF: 527 50 CSF 544.50
1.50 CF: 50 CSF 544.50
1.50 CF: 51.10 (1, Macarthur (6 Gamth), 4-11;
2, Antarous (3-1 lav), 3, Postave Action (4-1), 8 ran. 21, 19-1, M W Easterby Tote
512.50; 52.70, 51.50, 51.30 DF: 53.30
CSF 514.49, Trobst: 528.38
1.220 (2m holle) 1, Cool Ouds (F) 22.0. £2.70. £1.50. £7.50 £7.5

☐ All Jeff and Goodshot Rich, Charlie Brooks's Coral Welsh National possibles, are both likely to miss the Chepstow race because they are well out of the handicap. Goodshot Rich will probably run at Stratford on Tuesday week and All Jeff in the four-mile handicap chase at Cheltenham on new year's day.

Mark Dwyer misses the ride on Sybillin in the valuable Northumberland Gold Cup at Newcastle today. Dwyer aggravated a hip injury when Ardlussa Bay was brought down at Kelso on Thursday.





COURSE SPECIALISTS

26.0 22.2 21.4 21.1 20.6 16.4

A COLUMN TO THE PARTY OF THE PA

Mrs. A Fameli N Sentity G Gant G McCourt R Santity T Read

TRAINERS

Fanatical technician who is driven by pursuit of excellence

ick Faldo's addiction to golf has turned dreams to reality. It has also tested his patience; and tormented his soul. His craving for success has brought immortality in the sport, but it is the fear of failure which, paradoxically, drives him on.

There has been no more poignant moment to illustrate that than when he stooped to pick his ball from the 18th hole at Muirfield last July. The ice man of golf visibly melted, having completed the most courageous recov-ery in the history of the Open Championship.

Faldo had been through the full gamut of emotions. He began the final round four shots ahead, but after 14 holes he was two behind. He was, in sporting terminology, choking: he was at the knife-edge of failure, real failure. He knew it. We all knew it.

Jack Nicklaus has described the supreme moment life has to offer as having two holes to play in a major championship, and need-ing a birdie to win. Faldo found himself in such circumstances. He coaxed two birdies from the last four holes, and won. At the end, he staggered into the arms of his caddie. His face was contoned in sheer relief; his body was still quivering several minutes later, when he took possession of the old

claret jug.
Faldo does appear at times to derive pleasure from punishing himself. But his ability to overcome adversity is quite extraordinary.

The Nick Faldo story is one of obsessive individualism. It cost him a marriage, and it meant he has few close friends on the Tour. He was born on July 18, 1957, an only child, so perhaps he was prepared for a lonely passage

through life. Golf has its fair share of fairyrale stories. Bulletterox's father was a humble Spanish farmer; Langer is the son of a Bayarian bricklayer. Faldo, like Jacklin before him, has risen from council-house obscurity to become the finest golfer of his era. Comparisons with players from other generations are inevitable, and Faldo still has time to

strengthen his case. When judgment day comes, it is a golfer's record in the major championships that determines his standing in the game. Faldo

has won three Opens and two Masters. Nicklaus has, in his professional career, won 18 major championships (six Masters, five US PGA Championships, four US Opens and three Opens). Gene Sarazen has called it the safest record in sport.

Faldo has joked that when he gets to 17 he will retire so as not to tarnish the Nicklaus reputation. In the high-octane world of the modern game, it is unthinkable that Faldo could win another 13 major championships to emulate Nicklaus, but the aura of the majors continues to motivate him. He regards Harry Vardon's record of six Opens as a realistic target: he intends to emulate Hogan, Player, Nicklaus and Sarazen by winning all four major championships.

He is the fanatical technician, rather than a fabled genius. He is Lendl, not Laver. Keegan, not

Golf has its share of fairy-tales . . . Faldo has risen from council-house obscurity to become the finest golfer of his era

Cruyff. Gatting, not Gower. A superstar, yes, but a superstar so introverted that at times, as at Muirfield, it examines his very

He rarely displays personal joy with the talent to hit the ball better than anyone else in the world. He is too busy studying the flight of every shot to ascertain how he can improve its shape the next time. Faldo regards the golf course as his office and as such it is a place to be taken seriously. He entertains by example. He is a rare breed: the archetypal ioner fired by only one thought. "I want people to look back and say: 'I saw Nick Faldo

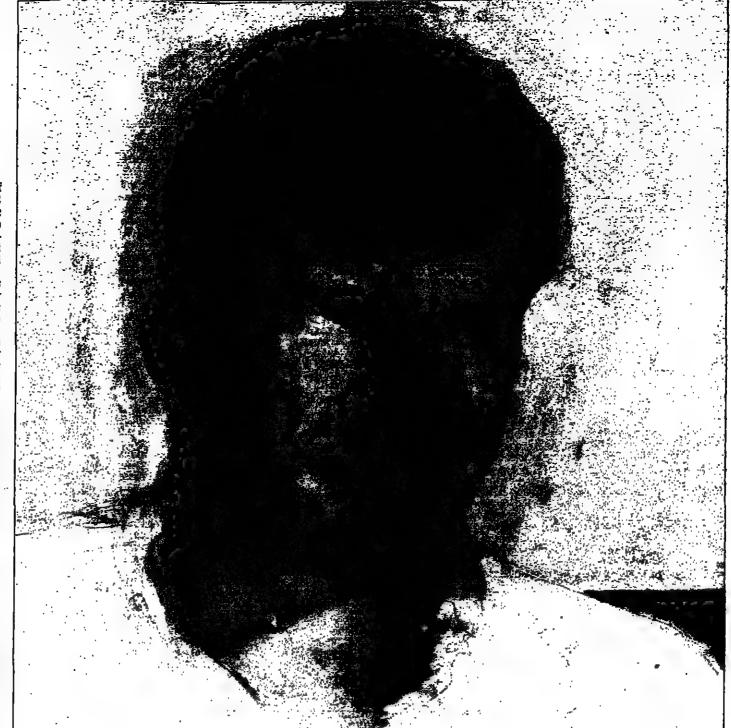
play."
Faldo insists he is lighter on himself nowadays. He should take a look at the video of Muirfield. Faldo drives himself to breaking point and back because that is his nature. He has earned universal respect because of that innate desire continually to get the best the best shots he struck in 1992 came in a practice round at the Scandinanvian Masters, two weeks after the Open. He nomi-nated the type of shot he intended to hit, and time after time the ball obeyed his command.

His pursuit for perfection is already legend. The harsh reality of success is that there is always something else to prove, and Faldo is aware of that.

His desire to play golf was activated when, during the Easter school holidays of 1971, he switched television channels and saw Nicklaus competing in the Masters at Augusta National. Faldo was mesmerised by sport, but disenchanted by team games He immediately recognised that golf, an examination of individual stability, strength and skill, would provide the instrument with which he could lever himself clear of the pack. His parents bought him a half-set of clubs, he virtually camped out from dawn to dusk at Welwyn Garden City Golf Chib and six years later he was a Ryder

Faldo was proclaimed the golden boy of British golf when, on a hot bank holiday afternoon in 1978, he won the PGA championship. He won that title again in 1980 and 1981. He became, in 1984, the first British player to win on American soil since Jacklin in 1972. He won five tournaments in Europe in 1983, and finished No. I in the order of merit. Then, one cold winter night in 1984 while around other hearths his rich talents were being discussed, he sucked in a deep breath, picked up the telephone and dialled David Leadbetter.

Most observers Faldo senseless when he revealed his decision to go back to basics and change his swing. But Faldo felt he needed a more reliable model that would not wilt in the heat of a major championship. So he swallowed his pride and accept-ed the theory of Leadbetter, then a little-known teacher, that while his swing was aesthetically pleasing to the untrained eye, it would never withstand the intense pressure that manifests itself down the stretch in a major. He has never invested a shilling on a horse, but he has always been prepared to gamble



on his own judgment. He was right, of course.

Faido regards goif as a personal test, and if he is obliged to take a disciplined approach at all times, then it is done to keep himself from thinking he has reached his peak. He believes there is always something more he can learn about the intricacies of the golf swing. The consensus is that when he feels he can no longer operate at the top, he will take his clubs out only to show his children how to play. He is, to the outsider, the

epitome of the champion: arrogant and talented, insular and

committed. He is forthright with his views, scathing with his criticism. He was labelled aloof and criticised for his lack of team spirit at the Ryder Cup last year. He reacted strongly, and publicly re-

buked his accuser. He despises

intrusions on his private life. Yet those privileged to be allowed into Faldo's inner-sanctum see him as a convivial and amusing host. He is also charita-ble with his time and money. Faldo offers guidance to newcomers and is particularly generous to

children's charities Earlier this year, he meticulously put together a tape that helped a young schoolboy come out of a coma following a car crash. The lad was at Wentworth in October to see Faldo win the World Match

Play Championship. It was Faldo's fifth success of probably his finest year. He won the Volvo order of merit for the first time since 1983, and he gained an unprecedented lead at the top of the Sony world rankings.

Faldo has been compared with

Ben Hogan, whom he recently met. He was as delighted with the comparison as he was to hear from Hogan that they shared views on

the golf swing. Hogan once spoke of a dream in which he had 17 holes in one. "I woke up mad because of the one I missed," he

As a starry-eyed teenager, Faldo dreamed. He dreamed about buying the Tudor mansion where, as an apprentice carpet-fitter, he rolled out the underlay. He dreamed about winning the Open. And he dreamed about being recognised as the best golfer in the

Nick Faldo no longer has cause to dream, and he believes the best is yet to come.

EQUESTRIANISM

Edgar piles on speed to put seasoned rivals to shame

By Jenny MacArthur

MARIE Edgar, who at 21 is the youngest of the 36 riders at the Olympia show-jumping championships, put her more experienced rivals in the shade yesterday when she and Everest Sure Thing won the Ever-est Brandy Butter Stakes by .01 of a second.

Her luckless victim Nick Skelton, one of the sevenstrong Everest Team that is dominating this year's show, was relegated to second place for the fourth time this week. "I suppose you can say my horses are consistent" Skelton

Linda Allen, the American course designer, had built a big, solid course for the competition. "It was bigger than I had wanted," Allen said. "But with at least eight of Europe's top horses in the class I had to

. 10 350

FRANCE

SWITZERLAND

build with them in mind. Olympia's tight time schedule doesn't allow for too many horses in a jump-off." Nine horses, three of them

sponsored by Everest, were clear in the first round. In the jump-off John Whitaker, still seeking his first win at the show, bowed out with four faults. Skelton on Everest Florida had a clear round in 26.75sec.

Edgar, a former junior and young riders European champion, was then ushered into the ring by Ted Edgar, her father and trainer. "Sit up" was all I remember him telling me, because I'm alwys landing somewhere by my horse's ears," Edgar said. Looking in perfect harmo-

ny, she and the long-striding Sure Thing jumped economi-

SNOW REPORTS

Two-thirds of lifts and 31 pistes open

(Lower slopes lcy; 37 pistes open)

s Menuires 45 150 fair open sunny -2 12 (Best skling on Mont de la Chambre; eight lifts and 15 pistes open)

..... 35 75 fair open sunny (Snow thin on lower slopes; 60 of 65 lifts open)

...... 60 90 good open suriny (Dry snow on most pistes; nine of 16 lifts open)

...... 40 160 good few open suriny (Upper pistes good; 30 of 36 lifts open)

10. 80 fair few open surmy (Piste thinning; Glacier still good with up to 350cm of snow)

20 180 good open su (Hard snow at all levels; all 18 lifts open)

(Good siding on uncrowded pistes; all 40 lifts open)

Information supplied by Ski Hotline

Courmayeur 135 250 good open cloudy (Upper pistes particularly good; most tifts and pistes open)

... 55 195 good open sunny (More runs opening; good skiing on offer)

Serre-Chevalier . 30 100 good open sunny (Cold, dry snow on all pistes; 37 lifts and 55 pistes open)

Zell am See 15 100 feir poor sunny (Best skiing on upper slopes; 20 of 26 kifts open)

cally round the six-fence course to finish in 26.74sec. David Broome, Edgar's uncle, came closest to matching her time of the three who followed. But Broome, 52, just missed the sharp turn after the penultimate fence and finished

Edgar won £1.800 and

Skelton E1,100. Afterwards Skelton, criticised the low levels of prize-money at Olympia. The riders put on a good show for the public here, but the rewards are very small," he said. "I'm not knocking Olympia, because it's a fantastic show, but the prize-money is not as good as it should be."

Olympia is not helped by coming straight after the Paris show, where the first prize in the grand prix — won by John Whitaker -- was £20,000 compared with Olympia's 10,000. The Paris show also offered a £37,000 car, and that, too, was won by

Earlier yesterday Geoff Luckett added to the list of Everest wins when he won The Everest Snowman Stakes. a two-horse competition, with Fire One and Cloud Chase. Luckett, formerly based at Ted Edgar's yard, won by the

convincing margin of 4.88sec. "I was hungry for a win" he said. Luckett will decide today whether to ride Vantage, his best horse, in the World Cup qualifier. "Vantage has only just come in from the field after a month off, so he may

not be fit enough, yet."

John Whitaker and Everest Milton, the favourites for the Volvo World Cup qualifier. which takes place today, have been drawn first in the class. His younger brother, Michael, riding the on-form Midnight Madness, has the advantage of going 28th out of the 35 contestants in the competition.

CHILDRESS Everest Snowman Stakes; 1, Everest Fre One and Everest Cloud Chase (G Luckett, GB) 72.64sec; 2, Delsey and JJ. (D Bower, GB), 72.64sec; 2, Delsey and JJ. (D Bower, GB), 72.65sec; 2, Delsey and Everest Minta (M Edger, GB), 80.79 Everest Brandy Butter Stakes; 1, Everest Stakes; 1, Everest Stakes; 1, Everest Stakes; 1, Everest Stakes; 2, Everest Flonds (N Skelbon, GB), 0 in 26.75, 3, Arch Countrymen (D Broome, GB), 0 in 27.29.



Early display of Oxford's intent

By Mike Rosewell, rowing correspondent

LEWIS and Bowe were in danger of sinking into the Thames rather than onto the carryas yesterday. But, to the undoubted relief of the boxing promoters, these were not Lennox Lewis and Riddick Bowe but the Oxford University trial eights in their race from Kew railway bridge to

A southeast wind produced rolling waves for the first three minutes and both crews sensibly kept the rating in the low thirties and were level at Chiswick Bridge. Bowe, on Middlesex, eased to a threequarter length lead by Barnes Bridge before a prearranged spurt to 344 gave them dear water by the bandstand and a two-length lead after nine minutes, when the bend came into Lewis's favour.

Bruce Robertson, a member of the Canadian Olympic gold-medal eight, could be heard calling for more effort from his Lewis crew-mates at this point, but Bowe had a ten-second lead at Hammersmith Bridge before hitting waves at Harrods.

Lewis's coxswain, Gordon Buxton, aimed for the shelter of the Surrey shore marginal-

ly earlier than Rachel Quarrell, in Bowe, whose crew looked in danger of floundering before it, too, hugged the bank to win by 24 lengths.

The power and talent spread through the Oxford crews is remarkable. Two Olympic gold medal winners. Matthew Pinsent and Robertson, South African Olympian Andrew Gordon-Brown, British Olympic reserve Richard Manners, four other winning blues in action and two, Jo Michels and Cal Madennan, on the sidelines will make it difficult for Cambridge to prevent Oxford levelling the series at 69-all in March.

BOWE bow, J D Annan (Edinburgh Academy and University); 2.1 W Gardiner (Glasgow Academy and St Peter's); 3. P A J Bridge" (Exon and Ories), 4. R F Morrison (St Pau's School, Reacing University of Capetown, South Artica and Keble), 6. M C Prisent" (Eton and St Catherine's)*, 7. J B McLanehan (Yale and Pembroke), stroke, R J Kelly (Thurston Upper School and New), cx, R E Quarrel (Bryanston and St John's) LEWIS; bow, O D Griffithe (Stroke) cox, fi E Querrell (Bryanston and St John's)
LEWIS: bow, O D Griffiths (Shrewsbury and Chinst Church!: 2 T J Whitaker (Honley High and Brasenose): 3, B Mawra (Imperial College London and Jesue)** 4, K K Poole* (Magdalene School, Odord and St John's), 5, B D Robertson (Umwarelly of Victoria, Canada and Keble): 6, R H Manners (Winchesser and Brasenose): 7, D R Willson (McGill Umwarelly, Canada and St Edmund Heill; shole, R A Brackenindge (Binannesa School, Queen's, Cambridge and Belliot), cox, G J Blatton (RGS, High Wycombe and Pembroke).

SWIMMING

Selectors will play waiting game with Hickman

BY CRAIG LORD

BEAMING James Hickman, surveying the wellmuscled, six foot-plus competitors taking part in the relay events at the national swimming championships last weekend, confessed: "I'm still a bit of a youngster: I feel a bit

The - feeling was purely physical. For at the age of 16 this most versatile of new talents, standing 5ft 10in and weighing in at 141lb, had just become a national champion for the first time, and in one of the toughest events, the 200 metres butterfly. That effort,

plus his five other junior titles at Ponds Forge, Sheffield, was enough to earn him a place in the 31-strong England senior team for 1993. Hickman will have to wait.

The selectors and his coach, Dave Cajellia at Stockport Metro, are determined not to rush him. He will remain a member of the junior team but will be promoted to the seniors for one of the World

Cup events in February.
One Commonwealth, ten British, 24 Welsh and two Scottish senior records were broken at Sheffield, which served to help heal the wounds of Olympic failings which are the subject of the Heatley enquiry. The two middle-distance

freestyle titles went to Paul Palmer, 18, one of the few to excel in Barcelona, while Adam Ruckwood, also an Olympian, Zoe Baker, Lyndsey Rogers and Marie Hardiman, claimed their first national short-course titles to secure a place on the senior

Martin Carl, second in the 50, 100 and 200 metres freestyle, also earns his first cap, as do Alex Clapper, Gayle Holland, Zoe Cray and Baker. Will some of these bright prospects be leaving for

America? "No," said Palmer, a pupil of Ian Turner at Lincoln, who last year became the first to bring off the treble of European jumior titles at 200, 400 and 1,500 metres. "Maybe," Hickman said. "Probably," Carl, 17, the leading light in Gordon Mathews's Redbridge squad,

Sarah Hardeastle, 23, rejoins the national team six years after retiring. At Sheffield she claimed the 400 and 800 metres titles to place herself in a class apart from her domestic rivals, although she may have to share the limelight with those trying to

included two Olympic medals at Los Angeles at the age of

14.
ENGLAND 1993 SQUAD: Men: S Akers (City of Leeds), J Brackey (Mitreguna and Bearsdar), M Carl (Recordor), A Casper (City of Coverny), J Fleet (Weltham Forest Sorough), M Foster (Barnot Copthal), N Gillangham (City of Barnogham), M Harris (Waltham Forest Borough), J Hender (City of Leeds), M Hooper (Portsmouth Northeae), J Permack (Cry of Leeds), A Ruckwood (City of Barlingham), D Warmer, Chy of Leeds), J Williams (City of Sander, City of Leeds), Z Cray (Caston on Sea), S Davies (Fortsmouth Northeae), J Pasiders (City of Sander, City of Sander, Chy of Leeds), J Coventry), S Foggo (City of Newscale), N Goodwin (Nova Comunen), B Hardmann (City of Birmingham), G Hooland (Monachester), J City of Sander, S Davies (City of Sander, City of Birmingham), G Hooland (Monachester), J Ring (Tiporsharts, Swindon), K Osher (Barretto Copthal), D Pasimer (Gillowinslein, Havering), K Pickering (pownch), L Rogere of Warrington).

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THE WARE

HOCKEY

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England

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

Turner takes over chairman's job at Peterborough

By LOUISE TAYLOR

CHRIS Turner yesterday exchanged the manager's office for the boardroom at Peterborough United when he became chairman of the first division dub. Turner, 41, is part of a three-man syndicate which bought the club for a sum believed to be in excess of £1

million yesterday.

Turner, a former Peter-borough player who returned to the dub as manager two years ago, has been joined by the Cambridgeshire businessmen. Alf Hand and Shaun Riley, to buy out John Devaney, the Oxford-based former chairman and owner. Devaney, who has had ill health, has not been seen at

the club for more than two months. Turner said: "We have had to beg, steal and borrow substantial funds to put the chib back where it belongs, in the hands of the people of Peterborough. But without John Devaney's intervention four years ago there wouldn't be a Peterborough United now.

"I still expect to have a substantial interest in the day-to-day running of the club and

my assistant, Lil Fuccillo, will am deeply concerned about it. be appointed manager," he It has dragged the name of added. Fuccillo, the former this club through the mud and Luton and Peterborough play-er, takes charge at Bristol City Turner, who had been linked with talk about a takeover at Barnet, heads a

four-man board completed by Philip Sagar, a member of the osvaldo Ardiles, the West Bromwich Albion manager, yesterday criticised his chairman for the decision to ban his predecessor, Bobby Gould, from the FA Cup replay with Wycombe Wanderers at the Hawthorns on Tuesday.

Gould, the manager of Coventry, yesterday received a written apology from the West Midlands police for preventing him from commentating on the tie for BSkyB. Police acted on a request from Trevor Summers, the Albion chair-man, who told Gould he was "not welcome" at the ground in case his presence incited

crowd trouble. Ardiles said: "It was a stupid and unnecessary action to take against Bobby Gould and I

Van Basten tops poll

Paris: Marco van Baster he Dutch striker, will be named European Footh of the Year tomor, w, reliable sources said yesterday.

Van Basten, of AC Milan.

also won the award in 1988 and 1989. He becomes only the third player to be chosen three times, after his compatri-ot, Johan Cruyff, and Michel Platini, of France.

The award was won last year by Jean-Pierre Papin, of France, then playing for Marseilles but now with van

Arsenal v M'boro

Hisplay of

T's intent

1. Hickmill

Arsenal have lost their last four games — their worst run for 15 years — and manager George Graham is likely to respond by receiving Fiettis, aged 20, 5t 6in and 9st on the wing Arsenal have failed to score in four games and are badly missing the injured Smith. Doon is also sidelined but Unighan and Umper are added to the team which lost at Tottenham. All eyes will be an Wright, the Arsenal toward, now that he has been charged with misconduct by the FA. Middlesbrough field the side which drew with Chelese.

Blackburn v Sheff Utd

Chelsea v Man Utd

Rovers have won only one of their lest

Van Basten, who has been struggling with an ankle injury, is to undergo an operation on Monday which will put him out of action for six to eight weeks.

☐ Steama Bucharest, the former European Cup winners, are giving their stadium a \$4 million facelift on proceeds from the transfer abroad of mine players after the 1990 World Cup. Alin Savu, a club spokesman, said yesterday: "We want the stadium to be up to Steama's top soccer performance." (Agencies)

I am very disappointed and angry." Gould has written to the prime minister detailing what he regards as an in-fringement of his civil liberties and is considering legal action against West Bromwich.

Steve Harrison was yesterday named as assistant man-ager to John McClelland at St Johnstone, the Scottish premier division side. The pair previously worked together at Watford when Harrison was manager at Vicarage Road. The former England coach subsequently moved on to coaching jobs at Miliwall and, more recently, Crystal Palace,

Kevin Keegan, the New-castle United manager, yester-day agreed a £700,000 fee with Ghent, of Belgium, for Eric Viscaal, a Dutch interna-tional cribes tional striker.

But if Terry Venables and Rick Parry have their way, transfers could be embargoed during the season. The next meeting of the Premier League chairmen in February will debate a proposal from Parry, the league's chief executive, and Venables, who holds the same position at Tottenham Hotspur, to place an embargo on Premier League transfers during the season, relieved by a possible mid-

winter window.
Parry said: "The Premier
League needs to be bold and try different things. It should encourage managers to im-prove the quality of their players. It is worth a try. If we do not like it, we can revert to the present system after two or three years.'

Venables, who encountered the system when he managed Barcelona, said: "I think leading managers will be in favour of a transfer embargo."

are without Notion, who is on international duty for Zimbabwa

Sheff Wed v QPR

Wednesday, who have slipped into the bottom six, are fikely to be without Palmer and Harkes. After a bright beginning OPR have lost five of their last eight Premier Lesque matches. They could be without Peacock, who has a virus, in central detence and Meddix stands by.

Goodison Park will not settle for anything less than a win after Everton's midweek Coca-Cola Cup exerton's microser coals snooth in place of the injured Herper. Monkou is fit to return for Southampton and replaces Wood in central defence. With Cockerill doubtful, Groves is

Everton v Southampton

Hovers raise won only one of their man eight. Premier League games while United have collected just four points on their travels this season. The match will be watched by Andersson and Berg, signed by Blackburn from Scandinavia on Thursday, Bradshaw is back from suspension for United. Man City v Aston Villa Villa welcome back Dallan Alkinson, their leading scorer with 13 goals, after injury. Flon Alkinson's teen hope to redeem themselves after their worst performance of the season on Tuesday night when they lost to loswich in the Coca-Cols Cup. City cleav selection. A big test of the championship credentials of both sides. Donaghy, now installed in Chelsea's defence, taces his former club while Harlord.

faces his former club while Harford, free of suspension, will lead the home attack if he pesses a late faneas test, with Le Saux likely to stand down. Shipperley, 18 a promising forward, is in Chelsea's squad for the first time and could be on the bench. Chelsea are captained by Andy Townsend, a player long coveted by Alex Farguson, the United manager who may decide to give Gillespie, 17, a winger, a debut in place of the injured Giggs. Robson is again until. Oldham v Tottenham A week after conceding five goels to Wimbledon Oldham's defence must brace treeff to cope with the Tottenham side fresh from undoing Arsenal. Having recovered from the broken finger which sidefined him for a month, Marshall now has influenze and is doubtful for Oldham but Barlow definitely starts at left back in place of the suspended Pointon. Ritchie is included in an Oldham squad for the first time this season. Tottenham are unaltered but Anderion, scorer of a hat-trick for the reserves in mickweek, is a substitute. Coventry v Liverpool Pearce is fit to return to the heart of Coventry's defence but in attack they

against Egypt. Liverpool will want to restore pride effect in midweek Coacolog Cup defeat at Crystal Palsee. Blomebye, a Norwegian international signed from Rosenborg last week for 2600,000, makes his debut in place of the injured Burrows at left back but McMaraman is absent with a hemstring strain. Wright is available for selection but unlikely to be recalled.

Tomorrow

C Palace v Leeds

Armstrong returns to lead the Palace attack after being cup-tied for the mickweek Coca-Cois Cup win against Liverpool. Watts, who scored on his cleaut in that game, retains his place in attack. Thomas, Palace's former England player, has recovered from injury and could be given a place on

the bench.
Chapman, Leeds' leeding soorer with 13 goals is undergoing intensive treatment on a shoulder injury and is expected to start. Betty is still not match its on Rocastle continues in the middle.

Leeds will be seeiding their first away win of the season against Palece's young, inexperienced but committed side.

Notten F v Wimbledon

With Forest bottom and Wimbledon 19th in the table the spectre of relegation hovers over this folume. The bad back which has disrupted his, and Wimbledon's, season dictates that Fasharru is again doubtfut. Barton also faces a late fitness test. Forest are unalisared. Compiled by Louise Taylor

McIhroy: appointed

Bucket 101.

Semi-final series: Group A: Microbil Tel Autr (b) 80, Bologne (t) 82; PAOK Salonius (p) 83, Joventut, Bactelone (Sp) 81, Scavolini Pesero (t) 61, Lunogue (f) 78. Group B: Olympialine (Gr) 97, Semistron Traviso (t) 82; Mechalen (Se) 89, Bayer Levertusen (Ge) 77; Red Machal (Sp) 73, Estudientes (Sp) 69.

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Adetaide: New South Water 389-5 dec (M Waugh 184, M Taylor St, G Machieue 53) v South Australie. Perti: Western Australia 325-5 (D Manyn 130) v Tesmente:

FOOTBALL

FA YOUTH CUP: Second round replays: State City 1, Crowe Alexandra 0; Wolverhampton Winderpra 4, Shrintprem City 1.

NEVALE OVENDEN COMBRATION:
First division: Winderdon 1, Luton 0; Ipawah 3, Oxford Ust 0.

BARCLAYS LEAGUE: Third division: Crowe v Winderl (Postponed, waterlogged outpil)

BIATHLON

Ashton plan for next century

By WALTER GAMMIE

SAMMY McTroy's appointment as manager of Ashton United highlights an ambi-tious plan. Target 2000, which the club hopes will take it into the Football League by the next century.

John Milne, the chairman of the south Lancashire club, said: "At the moment we are in the first division of the HFS Loans League and obviously we have got to win the premier division and then go through the GM Vauxhali Conference. We are aiming to do that in seven seasons." Mcliroy, the former Northern Ireland international, had been out of work since being dîsmissed by Northwich Victoria in October.

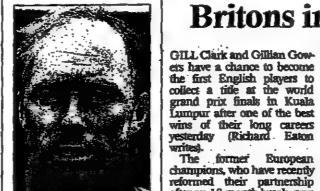
The basis of Ashton's con-The basis of Ashton's confidence is the progress made since becoming a limited company in February 1990. "We were in dire straits before that," Milne said. "We had a delapidated ground, no money and were just scraping along." The Hurst Cross ground now has a new stand, sir-step has a new stand, six-step terracing all round and a flourishing commercial op-eration that has recently clinched a £15,000 deal with a local coach company. The team, having won the Bass North-West Counties League and three cups last season, lies fifth in the HFS Loans League first division with an important match against Bridlington Town, the leaders, today. The team's prize assets, Chris Shaw and Colin

Marginson, scored the goals that brought Ashton a 2-1 victory in the third round of the FA Vase in Mcliroy's first match in charge. They had never reached the fourth round before.

McIlroy's former job at Northwich was filled this week by John Williams, the former Runcom manager, who had been caretaker. A casualty was Peter Sillett. the former England full back, who took Hastings Town to the Beazer Homes League premier division last season. He was replaced until the end of the season by Dean White, who will be Diaver-manager.

pisyer-manager.

FA VASE: Fourth-cound diser.
Bridington Town v Custon Astron.
Buracough v Carriste Laint, Geeley Rovers v Britignon's Town: Hindiley Rovers v Britignon's Town: Hindiley Rovers v Britignon's Town v Astron.
United: Rotawell Town v Notwelley United: Newport (DW) v Westbarrestow Persert or Loverson Town: Eventually United: Newport (DW) v Westbarrestow Persert or Loverson Town: Eventually United: Newport (DW) v Westbarrestow Persert or Loverson Town: Eventually United Library Stiffinghouser and Telecombo v Stiffinghouser Town: Carrier AN: Bushington Town v Fast Town United Carrier Town: Rovers or Dies Town v Therton Town: Rovers or Dies Town v Therton Town: Hoddesdon Town: Turbridge Wills.
They to be played on January 16.
DRINKWISE CUP: Semi-United: Northwich Victoria v Macchierited Town: You'd Town or Wycombe Wandiners v Degenham and Heddridge.
Prest leg week commercing February 25; second leg week commencing Merch 16.





The state of the second st

Cut above: Schwer may find a gash from his latest bout holds him back

Cuts could hamper Schwer

By Srikumar Sen, boxing correspondent

THE gash on Billy Schwer's cheekbone received in his bout with Mauricio Aceves at the Grand Hall, Wembley, on Thursday, could prevent the Luton lightweight from defending his British and Commonwealth boxing titles against Paul Burke, of Pres-

ton, on February 24. Mickey Duff, Schwer's manager, was optimistic but Billy Schwer Sr was not so sure. However, since this is the second time Schwer has suffered a cut for scorning defence in the same ring — the last time it cost him a European title bout — both cornermen should be in no doubt about the need for Schwer to tighten up his boxing.

Schwer's tendency to cut could cause Duff to avoid

GILL Clark and Gillian Gow-

ers have a chance to become

grand prix finals in Kuala

Lumpur after one of the best

The former European

champions, who have recently

reformed their partnership

after an 18-month break, won in straight games over the

European champions, Chris-

tine Magnusson and Lin

challenges from other equally aggressive British light-weights, such as Nigel Wenton and Michael Ayres. and go for a world title.
"When Billy won his British title Sulaimán (president of the World Boxing Council was here and he asked if I

it for now." Depending on how Schwer fares in his bout with Burke, Duff could go for the European title or take up Sulaiman's offer. As the "learning fight" against Aceves, a former World Boxing Organisation champion. was cut short because of a cut above the Mexican's left eye in the third round, Duff wants Schwer to have two more

bouts with Americans - Joey

BADMINTON

Britons in championship form

Xisoqing to qualify for the final. It was their second big

On Thursday, Clark and

Gowers also won in straight

games against the leading

Indonesians, Rosiana Ten-

dean and Erma Sulistianing-

sih, and this time triumphed

15-10, 15-12, against a Swed-

ish combination that has won

four important champion-

ships in the last few weeks. The victory, over a pair

which has won Malaysian,

German, United States and

win in two days.

nest move. Henry Akinwande can make his mark on the British heavyweight rankings today when he challenges Axel

Gamache is being considered as one — before deciding his

Schulz, of Germany, in Berlin for the European championship vacated by Lennox Lewis. Akinwande, 27, a 6st 7in London-born Nigerian, knows that a win will elevate

him towards the world top ten. He is four inches taller than his 24-year-old opponent and should make that advantage count. Akinwande beat Herbie Hide, who has been talked of as an opponent for the WBA and IBF champion, Riddick Bowe, in the 1989 ABA final and has won 18 successive bouts.

Danish open titles, should give Clark and Gowers tre-

mendous confidence for the

final, tomorrow, against the

all-England champions from

China, Yao Fen and Lin Yan

Darren Hall and Anders

Nielsen have been eliminated

after their third successive

defeats in the men's singles

although Hall led by a game and 10-6 before losing 12-15,

15-10, 15-10 to another all-

England champion, Liu Jin.

(Aus.), 12-15, 15-12, 15-7, 15-2, J Bones (Fr) bt A Device (Wales), 15-7, 15-12, 16-7 R Eyles (Aus) bt P Steef (NZ), 15-9, 17-15, 6 15, 15-10: D Harris (Eng) bt S Meeds (Eng 15-8, 15-14, 15-12, B Martin (Eng) bt I Webb (Eng), 15-12, 15-7, 15-8.

TENNIS

Pen.

from China.

Rally driver dies after crash on A6

particularly Holland, who

were in two minds about accepting the invitation. They have decided to send their under-21 team.

England have selected seven members of their under-21 squad for Bombay with the

junior world cup in Spain next September in mind. These

players are in need of experi-

ence but what is the worth of

going to Bombay now that the

quality of the opposition has

There is no guarantee that

the political situation in India

will have improved by Febru-

ary and a question mark

remains over whether th

East Grinstead begin the

defence of their Crystal Palace

indoor league title this weekend without Richard Leman,

who has not recovered from

IN BRIEF

event might be held at all.

been reduced?

an ankle injury.

Dave Metcalfe, one of Brit-ain's leading rally drivers, died on Thursday in a road accident near his home at Kendal, Cumbria. Metcalfe 35, had been a professional rally driver for Vauxhall Motors since the mid-1980s and was regarded as one of Europe's experts in front-wheel drive cars.

Metcalfe was driving an Opel Calibra, which had been prepared for the 1993 Monte Carlo rally, and was returning to Kendal on the A6 when it was involved in a collision with two other vehicles.

Testing times

Motor racing: Mark Blundell, the McLaren test driver, looks likely to return to grand prix racing next season with Ligier-Renault, having tested with them in France yesterday. ☐ The 1993 French grand prix may be reprieved after a government announcement that cars carrying cigarette advertising will not be seized

when they race in France. Back in command

Cricket: Mark Nicholas has been reappointed captain of Hampshire, ending speculation that he would be joining a Sunday newspaper as a cricket correspondent.

Protest move

Squash: Jonah Barrington, 51, the former world No. 1, has threatened to come out of retirement for the English national championships next month as a protest against the proposed boycott of the event by the county's top men.

Ken Jones

Sports writers: Ken Jones, chief sports correspondent of The Independent, was recovering in Christopher ward at Guy's hospital yesterday after having his right hand ampu-tated following an accident ar London Bridge station.

7 - TT T -

CRICKET

Replay experiment has won over the doubters

East London: Seven of the 15 African board's managing dirun-outs in the first six one-day matches of the South Africa-India floodlit series have been decided by television replays and these have brought a new dimension to the game, remembering that batsmen used to get the benefit of the doubt if an umpire was uncertain (Richard Streeton writes).

Some players and umpires had reservations at first about the replay system but almost everyone here now admits it has come to stay.

Clive Rice must be given credit for introducing replays to cricket during several of his televised testimonial matches two years ago. "I was impressed with the way replays were used in American football to settle potential comroversies. All sports must surely use technological advances if it is helpful to do so," he said.

Rice even had the cameras used to settle difficult legbefore and caught-behind decisions. Ali Bacher, the South

rector, limited replays to settling line decisions alone, however, when he followed up the experiment. Both of the International Cricket Council's match referees in South Africa, Clive Lloyd and Mike Smith, are convinced that replays have proved their worth.

Spectators have revelled in the drama of the wait for the verdict from the third umpire in the pavilion and when a big screen is available at the ground they can watch the replays themselves. All tension on the field evaporates as soon

as the verdict comes. Bacher is making tapes of replay decisions available to other Test countries to study. In the new year England are almost certain to sample replays for the first time in India; Pakistan and Australia will do so in New Zealand; and West Indies in February when they join Pakistan in a triangular tournament in South Africa.

ATHLETICS CAPE TOWN: 5,000m race: 7. A Nicotalem (SA), 13min 31 80sec. British: 6, S Osm, 13:34.87. BADMINTON KLIALA LUMPUR, World Grand Prix finelik

KLALA LLMPUR, World Grand Prix finals: Mean's singles: Group A: T Suer-Lauridean (Den) bt A Wirarsta, 15-11, 15-6: H Arbitroto, Ixin Hakkeyun wo. Group B: R Sidek (Meley) bt Wu Wentad (Chima), 15-8, 15-4: Fung Permed (Indo) bt A Nesberr (Eng), 15-5, 15-9. Group C: J Supriento (Indo) bt H Sussino (Indo), 15-12, 15-12; Lu Jun (China) bt H Sussino (Indo), 15-12, 15-12; Lu Jun (China) bt D Hall (Eng), 12-15, 15-10, Group D: A B Kusume (Indo) bt P-E Hoyer-Larsen (Den), 18-17, 17-16: B Supriento (Indo) at Foo Kot Keong, 7-15, 17-15, 15-8. Women's singles: Group A: Sussini (Indo) at Lin Xiaoqing (Swe), 11-7, 11-5. Group D: L Heung-soon (S Kor) bt Ve Zhaoying (China), 11-17-11, 11-3 Group D: Tang Jiuhong (China) bt C Magnusson (Swe), 11-8, 12-10. Group D: S Kusumendhahri (Indo) bt P Nedergasard (Den), 11-8, 11-5. Women's doubles: Group A: T Lund and P Dupond (Den), bt H Systems and M Thomson (Den), ex. Group B: P Gunnar Johason and M Bangusson (Swe), 15-12, 18-57.

BOXING WEMBLEY: Professional bill: Feether-weight: Mark Bowes (Southernoton) And Chris Lyons (Berningham), 2nd mid Light-weiter: Jason Rowland (West Ham) bil Jenny Vincent (Doncasted), pis. Heavy: Joe Bugner Jr (St Nes) bit Chris Couplain (Swarses), rich Srd. Light-middle: Clay O'Shea (latington) to Mark Jay (Newcestle). 1st mid. Vacent southern area weiterweight charmploriship: Gery Logen (Croydon) bit Roy Rowland (West Hem), red 4th. Light: Billy Schwar (Lubar) bil Massicio, Ageves (Meedco), rsc Srd.

BASKETBALL

GOLD COAST, Alpine Australian women's masters fournisment. First round: dit. J Goddes (US), 69: J Crafter (Mas), Sephenson (Aus), K Penter (US), K Larm (Aus), 70: L A Mile (US), 71: L Device (GB), L Neumann (Swe) 72: W Doolen (Aus), S Gautney (Aus), U Hyest (Cen), 73: B Button (US), S Notain (GB), D Red (GB), R Laurens (SMIZ), Other scores: 78: D Dowling (GB), D Semend (CS).

NATIONAL ABSOCIATION (NBA): ORDI-

Masserik (Cz), 5828.8 (1); 8, equal: R Gross (Gar), 58:48.6 (2); 8, equal: V Maygorov (Belanus), 58:48.5 (2); 10, A Kobelev (Aussle), 57:10.9 (1). ICE MOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): New York Islanders 9, Onews Sensions 3; Phisburgh Perguns 5, Phisburgh Perguns 5, Phisburgh Perguns 5, Phisburgh Perguns 5, Phisburgh St. Chicago Blackfewks 5, Winnipeg Jets 1: New York Pangers 4, 91 Louis Blues 3; Chicago Blackfewks 5, Winnipeg Jets 1: New York Pangers 4, 91 Louis Blues 3; Zvestra ToURBAMBENT: Group A pulcecys!; Swedenstat 3, Caracta 3, Overall: Caschoslovatia 4, Russia 2; Swedenstat 3 Dre, Russia 2, Swedenstat 3 Dre, Russia 2, Swedenstat 3 Dre, Russia 2, Swedenstat 3 Dre, Russia 114, Sweden 5; Caracta 1, Group B (St Petersburgh: Finland 6, Germany 2; Russia II 4, Sweden 5; Finland 6, Germany 2; Russia II 4, Sweden 19/10/10 (19/10) Phismat 6, Germany 2, Russia II 4, Sweden 2, Germany 2, Russia III 4, Sweden 3, Overall: Russian III 4,

RACKETS

CUEEN'S CLUE: Public schools themptomethy: Jim Deer Cup (under-15¢ event): N Ealey (Eton) bt J Hamble (Charlettouce), 15-0, 15-3. C De Segundo (Eton) bt S Angue (Pugby), 15-0, 15-0, Norwey Cup (second-strings swent): P Seatted (intercept) bt R Sharme (Chiro), 15-12, 12-15, 17-15; J Brack (Rackey) ot I Mogland (Nelvent), 15-12, 15-3; P Hardings (Makent) bt F Piborow (Winchester), 15-1; S Roundel (Hardow) bt M O'Commo (Radley), 15-7, 15-1; E Behm (Rackey) bt M Burker (Hardow), 15-8, 15-2.

RUGBY UNION MEB WORCESTER UNDER-21
PLOCOLIT TOURNAMENT, tecond
round: Blumingham-School 24, Oral 9
SCHOOLS 16-GROUP: Bedlurdnin 35, REAL TENNIS

BRITISH OPEN: Under 24: Singles: Second Round; J.G. Prate bt M. Coghtin, B-2. 5-8, 8-5. Charter-Trists: N. Wood bt G.

SKING

SQUASH CATAP: Intermedional tournement: Selected results: First round; Fl Martin (Aus.) bt C Leach (Eng.), 15-12, 15-11, 15-6; P Price (Eng.) bt G Waton (M2), 13-15, 15-5, 7-15, 15-6, 15-8; P Marshall (Eng.) bt S Baker

CUEEN'S CLUB, London: BWTA Christmen tournament Quarter-lines is Nichoson (Surgey) by K Roubenova (Interached), 7-5, 6-4; J Boden (Surgey) by N Glies (Surgey), 5-4, 7-5; M Hughes (South Welles) on B V Humphraye-Davies (Cambe), 7-5, 2-6, 6-2; S Bentley (Surgey) by K K Dyse (Rotherts), 8-0, 6-1, Semi-lines; Nicholson by Boden, 6-3, 5-2; Bentley by Hughes, 6-4, 1-6, 6-4 Finel: Bentley by Nicholson, 6-2, 6-3; Pentler titel (16 and under); Z Stater (Dosset) by A Dosson (Avon), 8-2, 6-2; Winnie Woodshidge Trophy Brist (13 and under); L Herbert (Herts) by C Smain (Herts), 8-2, 6-4. Winnie Woodshidge Trophy Brist (13 and under); L Herbert (Herts) by C Smain (Herts), 8-2, 6-4. Bristaln 2-1; N Beirn; Iaz, by A Rothardson, 6-2, 6-4; E Etritch (an) by MacLagan, 7-7, 6-7, 6-3; T Herman and Fictuation (US) to Beirn and R Konstil, 6-4, 1-4, 6-1.

MELBOURNE: Colonial Mutual Classer: Maritim provided by J Solgenberg, 6-1, 8-9, 1-9, 6-1. R Fromberg by C University of 8-1, 8-6, 1. R Fromberg by C University engages, 6-4, 8-2. Woomen's senders, courter-displace; J Immore 7: R Fromberg bt C Umberger, 6-4, 6-2 Women's singles, quarter-finale; J Limme tu J Taylor, 3-6, 6-0, 6-3; E de Lone (US) bt Sacoy, 6-2, 6-3; T Krozn, (Slovenia) bt T Monton, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4; E Smyle, bt R Stubbe, 6-4, rtd.

BRITISH STEEL CHALLENGE: Leading positions (at 15:00 GMT yesterday with miles to Hobarti: 1, Nuclear Electric (J. Chitanden), 2,678 miles; 2. Commercial Chttanden), 2,578 miles; 2 Commercial Union (R Merriweather), 2,682, 3, Hotmau Lager (P Goss), 2,827, 4, Coopers & Lybrand (V Cherry), 3,995, 6, Group 4 Securitis (M Golding), 2,925; 7, Pride of Teesside (h Medicilireny), 3,020; 8, Iracrspray (P Jellien), 3,158, 9, Phone-Poulism (P Philips), 3,459, Retined; Stritch Steel III (Germasted).

YACHTING

Time to tame the intolerable law-breakers



I AM worried about George Graham. The intolerable pressures, at £2,000 and more per week, involved in handling 11 blokes kicking a football around is clearly affecting his head.

Perhaps he needs one of those discount long-weekend breaks; omitting, of course, the free morning newspaper. First, Graham was com-

plaining on radio that none of the media commenting on the game knew anything about it. Now, he is suggest-ing that clubs should not have referees of whom they disapprove.

Perhaps he should try a spell with no media coverage and no referees and see how Arsenal fare, commercially

both Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur last Saturday, it seems they should also be playing without spectators.

The level of intimidation throughout the match, from what I hear from several officials, was a danger to public mental health. It is time for Graham to stop moaning about the mote

in the eye of others. I have been fortunate the past few weeks in seeing a succession of outstanding matches: Liverpool-Blackburn, PSV-Milan, Leeds-Forest. Villa-Norwich, Tottenham-Villa.

Elsewhere, the evidence, as at Tottenham last week, seems to support the view

David Miller examines the falling standards

of behaviour on the football field and

he saw 200 such "ordinary aerial challenges" every week.

executive yesterday that those

views are contradictory. Kelly,

to his credit, is most con-

cerned about the present state

of the game and he explained

that his defence of Blissett -

which so infuriated referees.

Blissett having been sent off

and suspended for the inci-

dent — was because a subse-quent FA commission had cleared Blissett on a further

charge of serious breach of the

I put it to the FA's chief

asks the FA how it plans to solve the dilemma

the Football Association has not been doing sufficient to tame the law-breakers.

In response to my allega tion that the deeds on the Vinnie Jones video had all taken place under the too benevolent jurisdiction of the FA, Graham Kelly, in a letter published in The Times, said that the FA was well aware of its responsibilities on

Yet there was Kelly, only a short while later, appearing as witness for the defence in the

With Blissett facing pos-sible criminal conviction, Kelly considered the FA was obliged to stand up and reconfirm the FA's own internal judgment at the time. The court was clearly influenced by his evidence.

Peter Willis, chairman of the Referees' Association, is alarmed at the apparent dichotomy between the FA and referees but has since accepted Kelly's assurance that the trial put the FA in a technically difficult position.

The imponderable of football's laws is the element of intent that referees have to determine in sulit seconds. Yet if Kelly is seeing 200 such challenges, something is

to protect the players." he said yesterday. From themselves, that is. There is a potential problem in the aerial chalges," he added.

And what about on the ground? The Tottenham-Arsenal match was a frenzy, I hear, from the moment of the foul by Howells on Hillier in the first few seconds.

Doug Livermore, the Tottenham first-team coach, claimed afterwards that he had "sent them out to compete all over the pitch for every ball". Arsenal responded likewise. How can any referee cope with such sustained, calculated intimidation by

Those being fined and sus-pended ought to be the man-agers and coaches who encourage their players into this frenzy.

It is a mood you can observe in Livermore and his assistant, Ray Clemence, on the touchline in almost every match Tottenham play. They are guilty of deforming and

defaming their sport. The standard of referees, however, is seriously inad-

In an enthralling match between Liverpool and Blackburn Rovers at Anfield last weekend, the referee, Philip Don, was continually getting in the way of the flow of play through lack of understand-ing of players' imminent

Parry fades from lead after bright start

Norman forces the pace from Faldo and Roe

FROM MITCHELL PLATTS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN MONTEGO BAY

NICK Faldo was locked in a 2nd holes, finding the targets fascinating confrontation for with ease, and made a fine the halfway lead in the Johnnie Walker world championship on the Tryail course

opening 68, but he began to labour as both his compatriot, Greg Norman, and Faldo snapped at his heels.

Faldo, out in 35 under a hot sun, had that cold, calculating look in his eyes and Norman made an encouraging start when he followed pars at the first two holes with a two at the

and he fell further back by dropping shots at both the 10th and the 13th.

He had hoped to play the first nine holes before the wind came up but the organisers delayed the start for 45 minutes to accommodate tele-

vision coverage.

Even so, Parry initially looked comfortable. He hit sixiron approaches to the 1st and birdie at the 4th, where he played a delightful bunker shot of 25 yards to within four

here yesterday.

Craig Parry, of Australia, began the second round with a three-shot lead, following an feet of the cup.

He let rip with a huge drive at the 6th, leaving himself with little more than 80 yards to go, but he misjudged the shot and the ball ran through into the buck bunker.

He faced a particularly difficult shot, with the green falling away from him and the pin only eight yards away. He managed to get the ball only halfway to the hole and missed

Parry leaked his drive to the Parry retreated with an out- right at the 7th but he recovglorious five-iron shot of 192 yards. He held it on the rightto-left wind and two putts gave

> Yet there were still signs that Parry, who has been having lessons from David Leadbetter, was beginning to

He had to hole from eight feet for a par at the 8th but could not escape at the 9th.

BRATICHES WE

CANTERBURY

CHATHAM

where he dropped a shot after driving into the left rough.

Faldo made an inauspicious start when he took three putts at the 1st. He hit his first attempt eight feet too long, his next four feet past and was relieved to sink the third.

At the 2nd, Faido nursed the ball in from five feet above the hole for a birdie. He had to hole from a similar length to save his par at the next.

He advanced with another

birdie at the 7th but drooped a shot at the next. Out in 35, he started home with pars at the 10th and 11th. Norman turned his career

around when he won in the Canadian Open two months without a win. He likes the Tryall course because it keeps his attention at all times. "There is no let up out there,

especially when the wind blows," he said. "It reminds me a lot of Open Championship courses because you have to play all manner of shots." His two at the 3rd took him to level par for the champion-

ship, at which point he led by one from Faido, Parry, Mark Roe, who played his first seven holes in level par, and Peter O'Malley, another Australian. Sandy Lyle, who was paired with Norman, revealed that he will not compete in the Masters at Augusta from April 8 to 11 if his wife, Jolande, gives birth to their first child that

week. "She wants me to be there," he said. If Lyle decides

not to play, his only appear-

ance in a major championship

in 1993 will be in the Open. He has not qualified for either the US Open or US PGA.

THE US OPER OF US P.C.A.

FIRST-ROUND SCORES. 68: C. Perry
[Aus] 71: G. Norman (Aus), P. O'Malley
(Aus), M. Roe (GB), N. Faldo (GB) 72: D.

Love 18 (LS) 72: D. Edwerds (LIS), R. Floyd
(LIS) I Woosnam (GB), T. Kife (LIS) 74: C.

Montponene (GB), 78: 1. Peimer (SA), P.

Aunger (LIS), M. O'Meara (LIS), A. Forsbrand
(Swel, A. Johnstone (Zm) 76: S. Ballesteros
(Sp), A. Lyk (GB), B. Lane (GB), 77: B.

Langer (Gen), C. Pavin (LIS), F. Couples (LIS),
78: C. O'Cornor Jr (re), 80: R. Alárnby (Aus),
S. Etlengton (Aus), 82: B. Fotton (LIS), J.

Suman (LIS), 83: D. Frost (SA).



Swing time: Parry, of Australia, tees off at the 4th hole in the Johnnie Walker world championship in Montego Bay, Jamaica

Managers agree on Townsend's worth

By Louise Taylor

ALEX Ferguson was prepared to part with several million pounds, or two of his foremost players, in exchange for Andy Townsend last summer. Chelsea had different ideas and resolutely resisted the Manchester United manager's overtures for their inspirational midfield player, who cap-tains them against United in the day's top match at Stam-ford Bridge this afternoon.

While United may be wondering how their championship challenge might have fared with Townsend on board, they are not doing too badly without him. After four successive wins they are third in the Premier League, one point and one place better off than Chelsea, who have been beaten only once in their last

12 matches Ferguson is, however, once again without the services of his most dynamic midfield player, Bryan Robson, who is injured, as is Ryan Giggs, so the manager is expected to introduce Keith Gillespie, 17, a product of the United youth policy, for his debut on the wing, where he could find himself in direct opposition to Mal Donaghy, 35, who joined Chelsea for £100,000 from

PWDL F APE

Old Trafford during the sum-mer and has, against the odds, established himself as a first-

team regular. Another of the older hands,

Mick Harford, Chelsea's leading scorer with ten goals, was

Miraggio". Terry Venables

sings "I've got you under my Skin" and Brian Clough the immortal "Shredded

Wheat". We also have the

voices of Pelé, John Arlott

and Her Majesty The Queen.

All from Exotica, 49 Belyoir

scheduled to return from suspension today but could be ruled out by a calf strain. A late fitness test will decide. But crucial to Chelsea's success has been the emergence of their home-grown youngsters and another of them, Neil Shipperley, 18, a pretender to Harford's position at centre forward, is likely to be among the substitutes.

Harford comes from Sunderland, once known as the "Bank of England team". Now he is playing for the Royal Bank of Scotland club" following their purchase of Stamford Bridge this week. The trophy room is thus safe

spring? Ian Porterfield, the manager, was non-committal talk about championships. If we are still doing well in March, that will be the time.

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1.44

"We must not become overconfident and if we are to keep our good run going we must approach matches with even more determination. But Andy Townsend is the player who has been the most vital to our success; he is the driving force,"

More football, page 31

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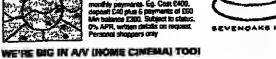
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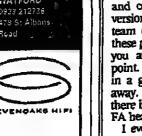
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Football fact: fantasy just a goal away

THERE are many ways of worshipping at football's shrine. Simply going to watch your favourite team every week - or even playing the damn sport — is frightfully vieux jeu these days. Groundhoppers visit obscure non-League grounds and collect programmes, but even this is becoming yesterday's

This season I am bombarded with burnf from people variously called Dream League and Fantasy League. You form a league of friends and colleagues and, in one version, you "select your own team of 11 real players. As these players score real goals, you award your team one point. As your goalkeeper lets in a goal, you take a point away. That's it. Apparently.

there is an in-house league at FA headquarters. I even have a fat, serious-

looking book, Dream League: A Guide to Success, by Peter Wroe. "I warn you now that Dream League will change your views on a lot of things," he says. Oh-ah? Fantasy League invites me to spend £20 million on an "all-star squad ... it's so real it's like the real thing".

It strikes me that sport is already a fantasy world, and that is its point. This new stuff is a fantasy about a fantasy. Oh well, in the immortal words of Miss Jean Brodie, for those who like that sort of thing, that is the sort of thing

Gift selection

Christmas Present Idea (1): a subscription to Johnny Miller 96 Not Out, the cricket fanzine. Worth it if only for the cover of the latest issue, which is in the traditional Private Eye format. It shows the wedding photograph of David Gower and wife. Bride: "You haven't been picked for the honeymooon." From 1 Wellington Crescent, Horfield, Bristol, Avon, BS7

SIMON **BARNES** Sporting Diary

Christmas present idea (2): Bend It 1992: a CD of hideous football songs. It includes such titles as "Soccer in the Sixties - the Young Scene" (by the Carnaby Street Pop Orchestra), "The Leeds United Calypso" and "Roberto Baggio Non E Un Road, London SE22 OQY.

Gym slips

Christmas Present Idea (3): a subscription to the gymnastics fanzine, Gym Stars. Glossy and suitable for somersaulting children; anyone else should get it in a plain brown wrapper. Fasci-nating fact: "Did you know that if your leotard is not of regulation cut and style you could lose 0.1 marks?" And you thought modesty was dead. From 44 Fitzjohn's Avenue, London NW3 5LX.



ice guy's error But what, I hear you ask, of

the ice hockey announcer

who was sent off last week?

Well, Darren Bavester has been reinstated as announcer for the Bracknell Bees, and faces no further action from the league. The ref sent him off for "sarcasm" (some may remember this as the cruellest weapon of Dinsdale Piranha). Bavester successfully maintained that his response to a penalty imposed on a Bracknell player was not sar-casm but surprise: "Matt Cote getting a penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct is like the Queen Mother getting a

On the box

parking ticket."

The cuddly heavyweight boxer has always been more a British than an American tradition. But George Foreman is changing that. No. he is not doing panto, a small relief in a difficult season for the fasa dincut season to the tidious. He is working on the pilot for a TV comedy series called George. For the first

time I'm at the mercy of other about a retired boxer, George Foster. To my horror, it seems designed to be "heart-warming". "It's about trying to find another way to get kids interested in education," Foreman said. "It's George Foster v The Bad Attitude.

Caught short

It is time to ring down the curtain on a memorable season of limericks. A thousand thanks to everyone who contributed: I am only sorry there were not a thousand bottles of port to distribute. The last bottle of ambrosial Calem Colheitas 1978 goes to Bobby Bovill for a touch of scatology in this limerick, in which he asks me to send a bottle to the England cricket selectors:

After decanting your bottle

Mix a dose of a subtler sort. A cascara potton Would guarantee motion: They'll be bowled and run out and caught short.

On that tasteful note -



kers

FOOD Frances Bissell's instant Christmas

Page 4



OUT OF TOWN Prince Charles and the royal flush



CAROL SERVICES Countrywide church guide

NIGELLA LAWSON ON **TELEVISION** Page 16



THE TIMES SATURDAY DECEMBER 19 1992

Stealing the night sky away

Urban lighting is blotting out the majesty of the stars.

Nigel Hawkes

beseeches the experts to darken our lightness

hen did you last see the night sky? I mean with stars from horizon to horizon? Not recently, I bet. Slowly, and with barely a peep of protest, we are losing our view of the heavens, something that man has marvelled at since we first came out of the cave

The Wise Men setting off for Bethlehem all those Christmases ago followed the light of the star to where the baby lay. Today they would be blinded by more earthly illuminations. On satellite pictures of the Earth, Israel appears as a brilliam white strip, the lights of civilisation spilling wastefully into space. Similar splurges of light cover large areas of the globe, brightest of all over Japan and Germany.

An intelligent alien could make a very fair map of the Earth's population distribution by looking at the dark side of the planet. Large conurbations are easily seen, even roads and railway lines. In the tropics, grassland and forest fires are the main sources of Illumination, while in the Sea of Japan the lights used to attract squid to the surface form a huge and brilliant pool. Only in remote areas is it possible to

enjoy the majesty of the skies. Few complain. We have allowed our view of the heavens to be taken from us without noticing, as we allowed the air to be polluted by smoke and the environment by pesticides. A whole dimension of human experience has been spirited away. It is, I think, one of the greatest cultural impoverishments of the past half-century, and a good part of it is completely unnecessary.

The absolute majesty, the incredible power of a truly dark, starpacked sky was part of the experience of all of humanity throughout all of human history," says Alan MacRobert, associate editor of Sky and Telescope Magazine, based in Cambridge, Massachusetts. "Now, in developed countries, it's practi-

The stars are still there, but we cannot see them. So bright has the whole night environment become that our eyes no longer operate at their greatest sensitivity. Astronomers have already fled from urban observatories, and even remoter sites are coming under increasing pressure. The 100in reflector at Mount Wilson observatory near Los Angeles has been closed, the result of a night sky five times brighter than the natural background. The 200in instrument at Mount Palomar is increasingly threatened by light from San Diego, and Britain's largest tele-

scope has taken refuge in the Canaries, at La Palma, where local authorities have passed a law to protect the darkness of the sky. Astronomers, to their credit, have made a great fuss about light pollution, but the issue goes much wider

than that. The sky is not the

province only of astronomers; it is

the birthright of poets, philosophers, princes, and paupers. The stars have had a role in every culture they have been described variously as tiny holes through which celestial fire may be glimpsed, as diamonds set in the heavens, and (by the Inuit) as small lakes glittering in the dark mead-ows of the night. The constellations were identified by Pliny the Elder and given the names of earthly things: the Bear, the Bull, Perseus, and Berenice's Hair. Newton and

Kepler studied the motion of the

planets and revolutionised our

understanding of gravity. Today, the study of astronomy is a way of looking back to when the universe was young. Every age finds in the heavens something to set it thinking. Without the bowl of night and its billions of stars and galaxies, the history of science and man's perception of eternity would have been quite different.

A shrinking number of people can now appreciate this source of inspiration. City dwellers are the most seriously impoverished, and that means most of us, but the lightspill from urban centres spreads its poison widely. A simple formula devised by the astronomer Merie Walker can be used to estimate the sky glow at any site, looking upwards and towards a source of urban light. A town of 30,000 inhabitants will cause a glow 10 per cent above the background level at a distance of 15 miles, and a city of 180,000 will produce a similar increase twice as far away. In a small country such as Britain, as Dr

John Mason, president of the

British Astronomical Association, wrote in a recent issue of Astronomy Now, that means that it is virtually impossible to get far enough away from large towns and cities to find a really dark sky. Alas, those who live in villages are following the same course. Street lights, even when they do not line the older byways, are often compulsory for new "closes" of executive housing. Security lighting is blossoming on thousands of old manor bouses. and the latest plague is floodlit

Twinkle, twinkle, little street light: the "absolute majesty . . . of a truly dark, star-packed sky" is now largely unknown to city-dwellers in the developed world, dazzled by the glow from billions of bulbs

n the Kent village where I live, the tennis dub won approval to install floodights, in spite of some opposition. I do not blame the players, although I regret not making the point that they were stealing the night from the rest of us - but that would not have been a legitimate planning consideration. The night is owned by everybody, and by nobody: the recipe for environmen-

at Kitt Peak National Observatory in Tucson, Arizona, says: "If things keep going the way they are, the only place you'll see a really dark sky is in a planetarium." Four years ago he founded the international Dark Sky Association, which aims to make outdoor lighting cheaper and more efficient. Three-quarters of the light that spills into the sky is caused by badly designed and installed lights that point up in-stead of down. "All the solutions necessary to preserve the night sky also promote better visibility at night, eliminate the glare and trashy lighting that is all too common, and save an astronomical

Crawford says. In Britain, Dr Mason's bête noire is the globe-shaped lamp, which has sprung up in thousands, usually in places trying to project an air of gracious good design. It looks pretty by day, but at night it throws

amount of energy and money," Dr

too much light upwards.
The British Astronomical Association, in collaboration with the Institution of Lighting Engineers.

has drafted a set of guidance notes for the reduction of light pollution. Many of Britain's street lights are old and inefficient, Dr Mason says. Newer lights now being introduced, such as the full cut-off, or flat-glass lantern, are much better. Astronomers have special needs

sodium lamps, whose yellow light is easier to filter out. For aesthetic and security reasons, high-pressure sodium lights, which more closely approximate to ordinary white light, are preferable for the rest of us, because things look their proper colour. In either case, an efficient lantern throwing light downwards can do a lot to reduce sky glare.

Under pressure from the Kitt Peak observatory, the town of Tucson switched to downward-facing sodium lamps on its 14,000 street lights. That way, "all your energy is spent putting lights where people are and not where Martians are", says Richard Guthrie, the city's electrical engineer. The changes save nearly \$2 million (£1.25

million) a year in power costs.

In Britain, the Portsmouth city lighting engineer. Gerry Davis. insists that all illuminated signs are lit from above and to the minimum levels necessary, and he has persuaded a superstore chain to modify its car-park lighting, with excellent results. He says that developments in lantern technology, particularly in low-pressure sodium lamps, are long overdue. On the Continent, better designs are available, and he suggests they

should be used here. Ultimately, I believe we will need a law of the sky, to preserve at least some wilder places from the inva-sion of light. The encroachment of light into the countryside needs to be monitored as vigorously as any other form of development. The light from the stars has taken millions, even billions, of years to reach us. For it to be lost in the plare of man-made light on its very last lap is tragic and pointless.

Let's rescue the Milky Way from being the name of a chocolate bar. and nothing else. Our watchword should be: Let there be dark.

An era running in ever-decreasing circles

What social group will become the focus of the 1990s?

David Crawford, an astronomer

Te are coming, said an astrology "freak" I met this week, towards "a multiple end-of-an-era scenario" End of an era for the Church of England, end of an era for Lloyd's, end of an era for the royal family, that eclipse of the moon was one of the portents of change..." intoned with a knowing look on his

One of the eras we are definitely coming to the end of is the era of journalistic coverage of the upper classes. The subject of "society suddenly became of interest again in the early 1980s after a discreet 30-year silence.

The interest was triggered primarily by two factors. Firstly, the whole country fell in love with the Princess of Wales at the beginning of the decade. Secondly, the resuscitated Tatler was being edited by two very witty people - first Tina Brown, then Mark Boxer. In a wave of imitative euphoria, newspapers and journals which, for years, had been happy to ignore articles about the upper classes

society suddenly started publishing their own society sections and running features on Ascot, Henley, Glyndebourne, coming out, riding

I had personally read enough articles about coming out by 1985, and could hardly believe my eyes when I saw virtually the same sentences being written about it May after May. Ditto Henley. Ascot and Glyndebourne.

Dafydd Jones-style photographs of people at parties appeared in almost every Sunday colour supplement - the lensmen deliberately aiming for fairground mirror-like distortions of their victims' faces, snapping away if someone yawned, blinked or looked downwards without their specs, creating a ruff of ilesh atop their collars.

But how can we continue to write

when so many of its members have gone "belly up", as they call it? Grand houses are lining up to be sold, grandees are looking for paid work, and we can no longer get any pleasure out of reading about the tormented chief Sloane

Ranger herself.

I have an old friend (in both senses of the word) named Ann. Her weird and wacky angle on life has always been of interest to me. Once for example, in November 1989, she responded like this when I told her I had been asked rather aggressively by a man I knew why I was so interested in the upper

i didn't really know myself.



although it was probably linked to the job I had on Tatler at the time. "How ridiculous!" Ann snapped. "Doesn't he see the upper classes are Where It's At! They are where the action is. They are fun to be around. In the 1960s it was pop stars, in the 1970s it was junkies

and photographers. In the 1980s, it's the upper classes!" Yes, in the 1980s it was the upper classes. What social group will now move forward to excite our imaginations and spawn acres of newsprint? Policemen? Central heating engineers? Women

I was rather hoping it

would be crop circle experts. We live in crop circle country here in Wiltshire. Indeed, my husband and I actually reported the Alton Barnes configuration the most impressive, and the one which appears on the cover of the Led Zeppelin Remasters album to the "experts". We were the first humans into it, having been tipped

who had spotted it from a hill. We enjoyed two years of circle hunting and attending events such as the Cornference at Glastonbury, and secret-society style meetings at the Wagon and Horses pub near Beckhampton, where the circle experts met to update one another

on new sightings. It was an exciting time, like being an early hippie with glamorous weindos at the helm of the movement, hushed up sightings, and camping out of doors waiting for

At one meeting in Silbury Hill car-park there were one hippie calling himself "the Crazy Goblin" (and dressed as one), six men with beards, and four "straights". One of the straights believed that the circles were "something to do with

ics". The Crazy Goblin, however clearly saw circles as an exclusively hippie preserve. But he said: "Well, there's obviously been a weaving together of the ways and a lot of people are coming here from a lot of different inspirations."

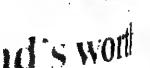
cruel friend who had been sceptical all along, when sadly we saw that the circles were not to last. Two men named Doug and Dave came forward saying that they had made all the circles as a hoax. They couldn't possibly have done them all, and many of the slightly humiliated "experts" - some of whom were middle-aged men who had given up their steady jobs to become full-time experts - believe it was a Ministry of Defence plot to allay public hysteria about the repeated and inexplicable appearances of these circles.

I do hope we can reactivate crop circle fever next summer. We need a bit of magic in our lives to replace the void left by current era-ending

Tired of karaoke? Try Sherry Oakey!







THEATRE

LONDON

ALADDIN: Enjoyable panto with strong characters and foot-tapping songs, directed by Philip Hedley. Theatre Royal Stratford East, Gerry Raffles Square, E15 (081-534 0310). Mon-Sat, 2.15pm and 7.15pm, from New Year's day, Tues-Sat, 2.15pm and 7.15pm (closed Christmas day)



Duo: Kohler and Barrit in The Comedy of Errors

BARNUM: Paul Nicholas walks the tightrope in a Christmas revival of the musical Road, W1 (071-580 8845). Mon-Sat, 30pm, mats Wed and Sat. 3pm (closed Christmas day).

CAROUSEL: Joanna Riding and Michael Hayden star in a triumpham revival of the Rodgers & Hammerstein fairground musical, National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (071–928 2252), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Sat, 2.15pm (closed Christmas eve and Christmas day),

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS: Ian Judge's sublimely funny production back in London, with awardwinning Desmond Barrit playing both portly twins. Co-stars Estelle Kohler. Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 6891). Opens Wed, 7pm; from Boxing day-Jan 5: eves, 7.15pm, mats (Wed and Sat), 2pm (closed on

Christmas day). CYRANO DE BERGERAC Robert Lindsay looks right as the nasally challenged hero but the production is too bustling to give enough room to the full porgnancy of his late. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930-8800). Mon-Sat. 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat. 2.30pm (closed Christmas eve and Christmas day).

Christmas eve and

PINCHY KOSI AND THE SEVEN DUPPIESI: The eight black actors of The Posse in a marvellously inventive variation on the Scroops story. Recommended. Tricycle, 269 Klibum High Road, NW6 (071-328 1000). Eves, 8pm, mats Sat, 4pm, until Jan 16 (closed Christmas eve and Christmas day),



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GLENGOYNE UNPEAFED. UNPARALLELFIX

THE LIQN, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE: This year's excursion to Narnia, courtesy of Vanessa Ford Productions. omewhat better than others in the collection Royalty, Portugal Street, off Kingsway, WC2 (071-494 5090). Tues, 2.30pm and 4pm, Wed, 2 30cm and 6 30cm. Thurs. 2 30pm, next Sat, 2.30pm and

6.30pm, then continues at various times until Ian 16 (closed Christmas eve and New Year's day). THE PRISONER OF ZENDA: David Haig plays the dashing Rudolon Rassendyll, spitting image of the King of Ruritania, in

the best of all romantic Greenwich Theatre, Crooms Hill, SE10 (081-858 7755). Mon-Sat, 7 45pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm, except Boxing day and Dec 28, 3.30pm (closed Christmas eve and Christmas day).

TRAVELS WITH MY AUNT: Simon Cadell, John Wells, Richard Kane, Christopher Gee play all 26 parts in Giles Havergal's marvellous adaptation of Graham Greene's novel. Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm, mats Wed. 3pm, Sat, 5pm and Christmas day)

REGIONAL **GLASGOW:** The Christmas show here is Myles Rudge's version of The Jungle Book, bold and colourful, directed by Giles Havergal. Citizens, Gorbals (041-429 0022). Mon-Sat, variously at 10am, 2pm and 7pm, until Jan 16 (closed Christmas eve, Christmas day and New Year's day).

LEEDS: Granny and the Gorilla, or "The Great Ape Escape" described as a hairy fairy story. For children of seven and upwards. Courtyard, West Yorkshire Playhouse (0532 442111). Today, 3pm and 7pm, Mon, 3pm, Tues, 3pm and 7pm, Wed, 3pm and 7pm, Thurs, 3pm, then at various times daily until Ian 9 (closed Christmas and New Year's days). MANCHESTER: The Moonstone, the first-ever detective story, with plenty of suspects, including Indian jugglers and Helen Atkinson Wood as the owner of

the missing jewel. Royal Exchange, St Ann's Square (061-833 9833). Preview Wed, 7.30pm. Mon-Thurs, 7.30pm, Fri and Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 4pm (closed Christmas day). **OXFORD:** Daydreaming Princess

Foolina and mischievous Tom Fool In Fooling About, by the team who produced last year's delightful Magic Storybook. Playhouse, Beaumont Street

(0865 798600). Today, Mon, 10.15pm and 2pm, Tues, Wed, continues at various times until Jan 3 (closed Christmas day).

FILM

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (U): Sumptuous Disney cartoon fairy-tale, blessed with skilled animation and attractive songs that might have sprung from a Broadway musical. Directors, Gary Trousdale.

Curzon West End (071-439) 4805) MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) MGM Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) MGM ro (071-434 0031) Odeons: Kensington (0426 914566) Mezzanine (0426 915683).

BLADE RUNNER (15): The Improved "director's cut" of Ridley Scott's influential vision of a dark, hellish Los Angeles infested with rebel androids. Harrison Ford, Rutger Hauer. Camden Plaza (071-485 2443). Gate (071-727 4043) MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 6279/379 7025) Screen

on the Green (071-226 3520). CHAPLIN (12): A skilled impersonation by Robert Downey Ir, but Richard Attenborough's bitty biographical epic never penetrates far inside the man or his career.

Odeon Leicester Square (0426 915683). COOL WORLD (12) Frenetic, suffocating mixed media exercise

from animation's wild man Ralph Bakshi With Gabriel Byrne. kim Basinger. MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031).

THE CRYING GAME (18): IRA gunman becomes obsessed with a hostage's girlfriend Bold, powerful Neil Jordan film that falters at the close. Stars Stephen Rea, Forest Whitaker, Jaye Davidson. Miranda Richards Chelsea (071-351 3742/3743) Curzon Phoenix (071-240 9661) MGM Haymarket (071-839 1527).

DEATH BECOMES HER (PG)-Meryl Streep and Goldie Hawn

battle to attain eternal youth, ice-cold black cornedy, ultimately swamped by special effects. Stars Bruce Willis; directed by

Robert Zemeckis. Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Empire (071-497 9999) MGM Baker Street (071-935 9772) MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031)/ UC! Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

HOME ALONE 2: LOST IN NEW YORK (PG): More of the same, with extra crudity and a horrid new streak of sentimentality. With Macaulay Culkin. Director, Chris Columbus

Barbican (071-638 8891) MGM Chelses (071-352 5096) MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Odeons: Kensington (0426 914666) Marble Arch (0426 914501) West End (0426 915574) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

HUSBANDS AND WIVES (15): Woody Allen's best film in years, a acerating tale of collapsing Nev York marriages. Stars Allen and Mia Farrow. MGM Panton Street (071-930 0631) Odeon Mezzenine (0426 915683) Renole

INTO THE WEST (PG): Two gypsy children ride a mysterious white horse into western Ireland. Wayward but engaging. Stars Gabriel Byrne, Ellen Barkin. Director, Mike Newell. eon Haymarket (0426 915353).

(071-837 8402).

OF MICE AND MEN (PG): Steinbeck's classic Depression tale of fnendship and innocence. John Malkovich as the slow-witted his protector. Simple, sturdy and moving.

THE MUPPET CHRISTMAS CAROL (U): Successful blend of Dickens's story with Muppet madness. Starring Michael Calne. Director, Brian Henson, Carnden Parkway (071-267 7034) MGM Baker Street (071-935 9772) MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) MGM Haymarket (071-839 1527) MGM Oxford Street 071-636 0310) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Odeo Kensington (0426 914666) Mezzanine (0426 915683) UC Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

THE PRINCESS AND THE GOBLIN (U): Blandly animated edition of George MacDonald's Victorian dessic. Director, Jozse

Odeon Kensington (0426 914666).

MUSIC

CLASSICAL

THE SIXTEEN: Music at Oxford's Christmas festival draws to an impressive close with a concert by the choir and orchestra of The Sixteen under Harry Christophers. Bach's Christmas Oratorio and the Brandenburg Concerto No 3 make up the

programme Sheldonian Theatre, Broad Street, Oxford (0865 791222), Mon, Spm. ENGLISH CHAMILIER ORCHESTRA: A strong lineup of soloists — Anne Howells, John

Mark Ainsley, Willard White and Thomas Allen — join the Tallis Chamber Choir and the ECO ur Jeffrey Tate for a timely performance of Berlioz's oratorio, L'Enfance du Christ. Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (071-638 8891), Tues, 7.30pm.

HANSEL AND GRETEL: David Pountrey's nostalgic but unsenumental production is revived at English National Opera. Rosa Mannion's bright, clear Gretel is in partnership with Ethna Robinson's Just William-Ish Hansel, Lionel Friend conducts. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071-836 3161), Mon, Wed, 7.30pm (mat Wed, 3pm, with Julie Gossage and Anne

BILLY BUDD: Graham Vick's production of Britten's grim tale of strife at sea makes for a harrowing and thoroughly gripping evening at Opera North. Elgar Howarth conducts. Grand Theatre, 45 New Bnggate, Leeds (0532 459351/440971), tonight, Jan 7, 18, 7pm

ROCK

MORRISSEY: The glum Mancunian has been courting Mancunian has been courting controversy recently by toying with nationalist imagery. Musically however, he is on fine form. Alexandra Palace, London, N22 (081-365 2121), tonight, 6pm. THE RAMONES: The cartoon punks are promoting a razor-sharp new album, Mondo Bizarro. Town & Country Club, Leeds (0532 800100), tonight, 7.30pm. Brixton Academy, London, SW9 (071-326 1022),

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 16 STONKING

(c) Excellent, great, fantastic, also as adverb, very, extremely, from 1980 onwards; The Independent: "When they've got their dosh, they go out and have a stonking good time." QUANDONG

(a) A Miss Piggy, someone who looks after his or her interests, and darm the rest of the team, especially disreputably, from 1939 onwards.

The name of two species of Australian tree and their finit; according to Sidney Baker, "because the fruit is soft, but with a hard centre" (letter to Eric Partridge, quoted in his Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional

(c) Someone considered stupid or radiculous, 1960-, arbitrary use of the unfashionable male forename, cf. 'Erb a wag or funny fellow: T. Barling: "A dozen baby-brained herberts looking to face me off just before they faced up to Kosher Kramer before the cobbles came up a bit smartish."

PRONK

(c) Someone weak or effeminate, a fool, 1959, of uncertain origin, cf. Dutch pronker a fop; Colin Macinnes: "No one is going to try to blackmail me with that crazy old mixture of threats and congratulations that a pronk like you falls for."

CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS: For mail order details of all Times Crossword Books and The Times Computer Crossword software with help levels, (runs on most PCs), call Akom Ltd on 081 852 4575 (24 hrs) or CDS on 0302 890000 - STOP PRESS! just released - the First Book of The Times Jumbo Concise Crosswords - rung Akom. Postage free until Christmas (applies UK only).



Celebrating a centenary: Agnes Oaks in English National Ballet's The Nuteracker

GIANTS OF JAZZ: A superb double-bill (also available separately) has The Brian White-Goff Dubber Sextet playing New Orleans lazz in the style of darinettists Johnny Dodds and Jimmy Noone, followed by Dave Shepherd's polished sextet performing the music of Benny Goodman. Purcell Room, South Bank London, SE1 (071-928 8800), today, 5.30pm and 8.30pm.

JOOLS HOLLAND: The irrepressible performer plays booglewoogie with his Big Band Jazz Cafe, London, NW1 (071-284 4358), Mon and Tues, 7pm.

WILLIE FAWKES — BRUCE TURNER QUINCET: The veteran Fleet Street cartoonist demonstrates his mastery of the clarinet with longtime associate and fellow clarinettist, Turner. zaExpress, London, W1 (071-437 9595), Wed, 7.45pm.

boast attractive designs. DANCE CINDERELLA: The Royal Ballet celebrates Christmas with an all-

Ashton season: the double bill of The Dream and Tales of Beatrix Potter is coupled with Cinderella, which 41 years ago became the first full-length ballet by an English choreographe Using Prokofiev's score, Ashton created some of his most delightful choreography, especially for the ers, one of the funnies double acts in all ballet. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden (071-240 1066), Cinderella: Wed, 7.30pm, Boxing day,

THE NUTCRACKER Tchalkovsky's Christmas offering celebrates its 100th birthday this year, an event marked by English National Ballet in its annual Nutcracker season. Ben Stevenson's workaday production may not be the most inspired but it does

2.30pm and 7.30pm.

courtesy of Desmond Heeley. Festival Half, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800). Mon-Wed, 7.30pm, mats Tues-Thurs, 2.30pm.

THE NUTURACKER: Opera. North is presenting a new version of Tchalkovsky's classic by choreographer Matthew Bourne are sturing the dancers of his Adventures in Motion Pictures company. Presented as part of a double-bill with the opera Yolands. Grand Theatre, 46 New Briggate, Leeds (0532 459351/440971). Mga-Tues, 7pm.

MOTIONHOUSE: For its latest project, Motionhouse has turned to Gabriel Garcia Marquez's One Hundred Years of Solitude. The nover's magic regism has inspired Deja-Vu, a work which involves performances in both an art gallery and theatre on the same evening. The piece is a

collaboration between Spanish installation artist Rosa Sanchez Kevin Finnan and Louise Richards. For tonight's performance in Birmingham the audience starts at the Ikon Gallery at 7pm. before moving to the Dance Centre for the second half at can see either half on its own. Details on 021-440 3838.

EXHIBITIONS

VISUALISING MASCULINITIES: The theme of this small show (13 works in total) is the way artists from the mid-19th century up to today have used the male body in art. The choice includes Millars, Epstein, Pollock and Bacon. Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1 (071-821 1313), Mon-Sat, 10am-5.50pm, Sun, 2-5.50pm, today-June 6 (closed Christmas eve-Boxing day and New Year's day).

gathers from the gallery's own collection a series of tributes to the enduring magic of the Eternal City, including works made in Rome by such visitors as Bruechel. Elsheimer, Poussin and others, as well as locals such as Raphael and Piranesi. Scots Ramsay, Wilkie, David Roberts and Alexa Rundman also stand out. National Gallery of Scotland, The Mound, Edinburgh (031-556 8921). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 11am-6om, until Jan 31 (closed Christmas day, Boxing day, New Year's day, Jan 2 and 4).

TIM HEAD: For this, Head's house a series of ink-jet pictures, Thirmen Most Wanted. Whitechapel Art Gallery, Whitechapel High Street, E1 (071-377 0107). Tues-Sun, 11am-5pm (Wed to 8pm), until Feb 28 ed Christmas day-Dec 28 and New Year's day).

MEARDSLEY TO BOMINERGE Some of Beardsley's finest decadent drawings are included here. together with those of the Camden Town Group, Paul Nash and Bomberg. Taté Gallery, Milibank, SW1 (071-821 1313). Mon-Sat, 10am-

impressionist ones. Royal Academy of Arts, 10ami-6pm, until Feb 14, 1993 (closed Christmas eve-

ECCO ROMA: This exhibition

most extensive show yet in London, the Lower Gallery has been ted sky-blue and Astroturied to SHELLEY: AN INCEPTECTUAL

ANGEL? A belitted Landon celebration of the bicentenary of shelley's birth in 1792, this show includes portraits and other Sheliey-related art as well as manuscripts, annotated books and even fragments of his ashes. British Library Galleries, Great Russell Street, WC1 (071-636 1555). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2.30-6pm, until Feb 28 (closed Christmas eve-Dec 27 and New Year's day).

6pm, Sun, 2-6pm, until Feb 14 (closed Christmas eve-Boxing day

and New Year's day). SICKERT: A chance to see the artist's later works, frequently based on newspaper photographs, as well as his more familiar Piccadilly W1 (071-439 7438). Daily,

BOOKINGS YO TENGO UN TIO EN AMERICA: Catalan company Els Joglars visits Britain in January to present its play I Have an Uncle in America, considered to be a daring contribution to the Columbus

quincentary when premiered in Spain earlier this year. The play is acted out in a psychiatric institution where six therapists encourage eight patients to reenact the conquest of America by the Spanish. Riverside Studios, Crisp Road,

London, W6 (081-748 3354), Jan 19-Feb 6, 7,45pm. CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: As a curtain raiser to the South Bank's "Towards the Millennium". festival which returns in March and April, Pierre Boulez conducts the orchestra in a selection of 20thcentury works including Webern's Passacaglia and Variations for Orchestra, Stravinsky's Petrushka and Bartók's Piano Concerto. Festival Hall, South Bank, London, SE1 (071-928 8800),

VIDEO

Jan 27, 7.30pm.

FRIED GREEN TOMATOES AT THE WHISTLE STOP CAFE (Columbia Tri-Star, 12): Heartwarming lives of feisty folks down South, Episodic, shallow, but finally ingratiating. Kathy Bates, Jessica Tandy, Mary Stuart Avnet, 1992.



in Fried Green Tomatoes

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS --THE DISCOVERY (Braveworld, PG): A pin-up navigator (George Corraface) discovers the New World. Silly juvenile romp, with a ine Marion Ilrando cameo Director, John Glen, 1992.

NOISES OFF (Buena Vista, 15): Peter Bogdanovich's valiant attempt to transfer Michael Frayn's highly theatrical farce to film. Coarsened for transattantic tastes, but it sometimes succeeds in spite of itself. Michael Caine, Carol Burnett, 1992.

Film: Geoff Brown; Theatre: Jeremy Kingston; Classical Music, Opera: lan Brunskill; Rock, Jazz: Stephanie Osborne; Dance: Debra Craine; Exhibitions: John Russell Taylor, Video: Geoff Brown; Bookings: Kari Knight

The year's thundering good read

Philip Howard introduces a

collection of witty, thoughtful, even annoying, writing from The Times

golden virtues for us groupies, for whom it is the only paper. Each of us approaches our daily fix of news and opinion, humour and comment, entertainment and provocation in a different order. I start with the bit that the readers write for us, without payment or invitation, down at the bottom righthand corner of Letters, for the quirks and oddities of life, and then work my way upwards, crying "Excelsior", towards the sterner stuff, where we are still the public noticeboard for the

ruling and argufying classes, and hundreds of readers still write to the editor each day. Times hoping to get their opinions (and names) on the Letters page.

Don't tell anyone out there in the black hole into which we dispatch

improves in the cask like port' the paper lorries every night, but The Times is not

really the official and ultimate arbiter of English grammar and usage, or even of unusual pronunciations by BBC front men and women, though I receive dozens of letters from readers each week seeking advice (or, more commonly, confirmation of the bees in their bonnets) on these matters, and try to send them helpful (or at any rate calming) replies, bashed out with the right forefinger on an Iron Age portable, in haste and swearing, the Agony Unde of the dangling participle, teased by passing colleagues. It never was, dear girl. The Fowler brothers, when composing their admirable books on Engtheir admirable books on English usage, used, as examples of bad English, extracts taken

from their daily paper. This was, of course The Times. Nor is The Times exactly suitable reading for a single day. There is simply too much in it. It is a huge parcel of words and pieces, at which we pick and snatch as best we can.

his newspaper has Most of us read it in vexing manifold attributes and conditions, such as walking conditions, such as walking around Kensington Gardens in the dim light of dawn beneath the jets pigeoning home into Heathrow, or standing jammed into unwelcome face-to-face contiguity with complete strangers, stationary in some tunnel on the Circle line. Few of us have the leisure of a couple of hours after breakfast in a leather armchair, preferably in a club

> bly escape unread every day. 'Quite a i had a dear friend called lot of The Nancye [sic] who used to cut out the bits she intended to read eventually, when she found the time. Over the years, her drawing-room gradually disappeared behind and beneath mountains of dippings from

The Times, which she was going to get round to reading, one day.
We resolve to read the paper in bed at night, but poetry is better for bedtime reading. Even my arms are not orang-utan's to handle a broadsheet while semi-supine. And by then the paper shows signs of children's scribbling. Jack Russell puppies' teeth and pee, and the thousand natural shocks that daily newsprint is heir to.

So here comes another Times Book of the Year, The Times Bedside Book 2, recollecting in tranquillity a selection of pieces that have appeared in The Times during the past year. For the record, for bedtime or relaxed reading, for pleasure (which must always be a purpose of journalism, though earnest journalists sometimes forget this ingredient of their maylly trade).

It has been some year. Heavy and inscrutable politics, pregnant with doom: the continuing turmoil and confu-

THE TIMES **BEDSIDE BOOK 2**

Edited by PHILIP HOWARD

Foreword by Sir Bernard Ingham



sion in the old Soviet empire, bloody wars and ethnic cleansing (vile euphemism of the year) in what used to be Yugoslavia, doubtful elections from the United Kingdom to the United States, uncertainty in Europe over Maastricht and ERM (two of the weasel

words of the year for jargonauts), recession and a continuing series of blunders and It has been a harder year

boobs by all governments. than usual for the futurologists of the daily press to read. This has not inhibited us from our instant predictions, opinions,

THE TIMES **BEDSIDE BOOK 2**

Please send me copy(ses) of The Times Bedside Book 2, edited by Philip Howard, with a signed bookplate, at £16.99 each, including postage and packaging

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versions and judgments in our daily first rough draft of history. Selecting the pieces for The Times book is a pig of a job. It is extra work in a day where there is already quite enough to do, including the daily semantic tease of Word Watching, which comes out remorselessly six days a week, and takes its setter at least 20 minutes to compose, when he is fresh. (Ignore all puns and other schoolboy jokes, and you are left with the answer.) Selection also causes primadonnaish grief and envy among journalists, who, contrary to innocent impressions, are not entirely above such childish emotions.

t is simply not possible to include something from everybody; and some of our best journalists, who write instantly about the hard news. have, by definition, a shelf-life of a single day. Read a year later, their pieces can seem irrelevant, passé and boring. In a book of a year, there is bound to be a bias towards more analytic and timeless (and humorous) pieces.

I could not have coped without the assistance of devoted work shadows, notably Philippa Jones now in her second year towards a first in English at UCL. We got in early, and trawled the paper for long-lived and unusual fish of all sorts. Here they are, between hard covers and beddable. everything from the hard stuff of politics to the fun of features and the first shot at biography of obits, from the thunder of leaders to the bit of *The Times* that readers write for them-

selves, their letters to the Ed. The Times is first of all a daily paper, here today and lining for the Jack Russell puppies basket tomorrow. But quite a lot of it improves in the cask like port. Here, in The Times Bedside Book 2. is a brief tasting, to show that some of the best contemporary writing is here, beneath our noses, every day, in the news-paper that is also the book of a Recording Angel and Imp.

The Times Bedside Book 2 (HarperCollins, £16,99) is on sale at major bookshops and newsagents. To get a copy with a bookplate signed by Philip Howard, please complete the coupon. Credit card holders can order direct by phone on 0525 \$51945 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm).

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Roll out the barrel to put an end to the rat race

cornstack should be a silent thing. Perhaps it could be allowed the occasional rustle as the breeze lifts a straw, or even a crackle as the sparrows dive-bomb it in search of grains of food. But it is no place for a symphony orches-tra to be squeakily runing up, and such is the cacophony that I am forced to the conclusion that our cornstack has squatters. I have only to pass by and they shriek like throttled sopranos and scuttle like thieves on the run. The whole stack

We have rats and I know not what to do.

Were I planning an apartment in which a rat could take a winter holiday. I would be hard pressed to come up with anything better. Our stack of wheat is dry, loaded with plump grains, enjoys extensive views over farm-buildings

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

and all the other things rats

It even boasts a Riviera position, being near the ditch where they can promenade up to their horrid little knees in noxious mud and ditch-water.

They are a major pest.

They steal the corn, fill the stacks with their vile droppings and plunder the rest of the farm, stealing eggs from the chickens, oats from the sheep and even gnawing through electricity cables to remind me that they are in

Rat poison might be the obvious solution. I hear of one that comes in packets which the rat hauls back to his nest. There, he opens his little food parcel and offers it around.

This kills all the rats in the

But I am refuctant to take the chemical option because of our visiting barn owl, who now makes a low nightly sweep along our spends a good half hour on the rafters of the barn, hunting. He

arrives just after dusk at about the time I am fumbling in the dark (rats ate through the lighting wires) for hay for the horses. I sense his presence and when I look upwards he is there, staring at me. This brief encounter lasts for only a few seconds, for he soon takes fright and, with the gentlest hushing of his wings, he sweeps the length of the roof and is through the door



have no wish to shorten his dignified and thoughtful life by offering him poisoned carcasses. Nor do I want to harm our

working days hovering silently over the haystacks waiting for an unfortunate mouse to emerge and take kestrel, who spends most of his movements in grass or hedge, and swoops for the kill. He is the only creature who has been at work each and every day since we have had this little farm, and I would not want to harm him either. So no

poison.

This leaves cunning as my only weapon. Undeterred by my aged farming tomes which depressingly record "the extermination of rats is a task which must now be considered beyond the power of civilised man". I am determined to bring them to heel. Here is my plan, culled from a farmer who found this suicidal method of rat-catching irresistible.

You take a barrel and place it in the middle of the barn. Into this you pour a seductive mixture of wheat, chaff, cars, barley and any other lustious grain until you have created a rat's Christmas dinner. You provide him with a ramp so that he can easily climb to the rim

and quietly feast. Each day you replace what he has eaten until he is convinced that all his dreams have

come true. Then, on the seventh day, remove the corn and replace it with a foot of water. Hungry, horrid little ratty will toddle up the ramp, tucking his napkin into his collar in eager anticipation and, blinded by his experies of upper into the icy wet his appetite, plunge into the icy wet and very deadly depths. If the

barrel is deep enough he will not clamber out. Bye bye, rany.

If it sounds far-fetched, I am told that the first time the inventive farmer employed the method he caught 60 rats in one night. Next week 1 shall try it but until then, every time 1 walk past the cornstack, I sing to myself "roll out the barrel, let's have a barrel of fun". It is just to full them into a false sense of security.

Raising royal eco-standards

The Prince of Wales is setting an environmental example at Highgrove House, Annie Rankin reports

Wales moved to Highgrove House in Gloucestershire, he determined to make it an experimental ground for his green vision. Highgrove has always been a more special place for the prince than the princess, and, in the wake of their separation, more than ever it will be his spiritual home. He hopes it may one day become a model of environmental soundness.

In 1981, the prince asked Intermediate Technology's power division for an apprais-al of energy use and renewable energy options at Highgrove. In 1989, he commissioned a full energy survey of Kensington Palace and Highgrove. Many of the recommendations by surveyors Halcrow Gilbert are now in place.

Window sills and doorways have been draught-proofed and disused chimneys blocked to keep in heat Low-energy light bulbs have been widely installed and central heating controls and thermostats renewed. The prince would have liked to introduce straw-fired heating, but this proved impractical: partly because the strew would have to be gathered from too far afield, and partly because such a system requires a steady output rather than the fluctuating demand at Highgrove.

oci read

The survey also recommended adapting the swimming pool heating system from electricity to oil. The conversion cost was deemed appropriate because oil represents a saving of both money and energy. Using high-grade energy, such as electricity, for low-grade heating is not only inefficient but is more harmful because of the rate of emissions at electrical power sta-tions. A Friends of the Earth spokesman said: "Anyone who has an electrically heated pool should consider chang-

ing to oil or gas."
One leading innovation at Highgrove is its reed-bed sew-age disposal system. This



Vision: the Prince of Wales

pumps sewage through reeds and willows, whose roots absorb nutrients and water; perforated pipes underneath them keep the beds aerated and act as drains to discharge the effluent on to the willow bed, where the roots continue to clean it. To the untrained eye it looks like a pond, and there is no bad smell

The two end-products are clean water and studge, which builds up on the bed and being full of nutrients and organic matter - merely makes the reeds grow better. The only input is the electricity needed to pump away the water because the bed is on flat ground. However, the prince hopes to make it entirely natural by harnessing solar power to drive the pump.

With water and waste issues high on the agenda, sprinklers are spurned at Highgrove, and only those plants that really need it are manually watered. The prince has looked into collecting rainwater from the rooftops and channelling it into an underground storage site. An existing store, from the days before running water, is being examined to see if it can be salvaged. Anxious that trees should

not degenerate through crossbreeding, the prince imported large numbers of uncorrupted saplings to plant around his land. He is interested in biomass production, which involves planting fast-growing trees, such as willows and

on a short-rotation coppice system. The timber is then chipped and used as fuel. He wants to see unfertilised coppice with a mix of tree types.

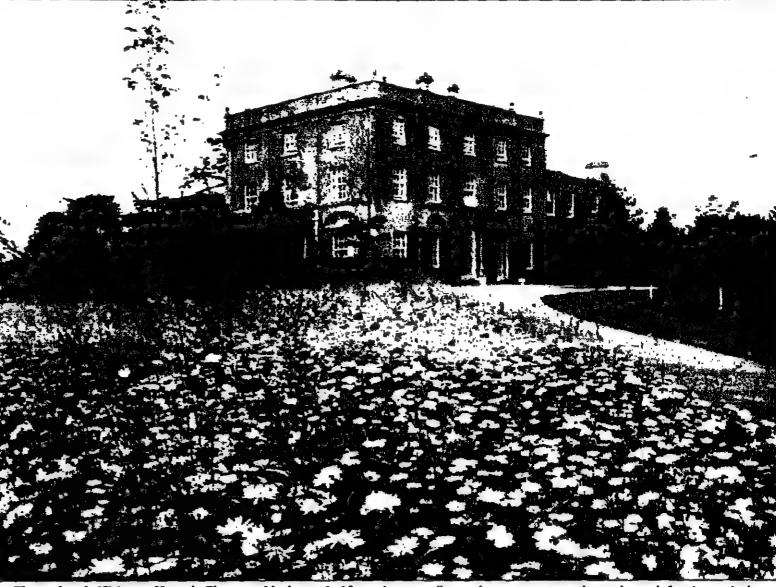
As proof that he gives more

than a hoot about wildlife, the prince recently delayed the reroofing of a barn, so as not to disturb owls nesting inside. He has been hatching a cheme to restore threatened barn owls to Gloucestershire. Many offspring have now been bred and he hopes that Highgrove's conductive habi-tat will encourage enough short-tailed field voles to complete the food chain and thus

support the owis.
In view of the prince's "healthy suspicion of relying on chemicals", it is no surprise that all his gardens are organically cultivated. Now the Home Farm attached to Highgrove, which runs on the age-old practice of crop rotation, is in the process of going organic. Roughly half the 1,000 acres are Soll Association approved, and the farm should be wholly organic by 1995. The farm produces organic wholemes flour, which is baked into Highgrove's own-label bread and

o what can we commoners, with our limited means and influence, do to help the planet? We can, no doubt, waste less. Terence Tovey, of Halcrow Gilbert, says. There is no energy bill that can't be reduced by 10 per cent, and if you haven't made any adjustments in the past three or four years, then it can probably be cut by 30 per cent." A simple checklist usually starts with roof and water-tank insulation, draught-proofing and

double-glazing.
Switching to low-energy light bulbs is perhaps the single most eco-friendly move individuals can make. Simon Roberts of Friends of the Earth says: These may cost more, say £10-£12 each, but



The good earth: Highgrove House in Gloucestershire is a testbed for environmentally sound management practices and organic farming methods

they last about eight times longer and use only 20 per cent of the electricity of a standard bulb."

Obviously, a large royal household expends much more energy than most of ours do. But given that this is expected of the heir to the throne, he is using his position to further ecological causes with the utmost integrity. If, by his vision and example, he leads us to pastures new and sources renewable, then he will have done the country a sovereign service.

Highgrove: Portrait of an Estate will be published next March by Chapmans. "How to be a friend of the Earth" and "Don't throw it all away" are both produced by Friends of the Earth, 26-28 Under-Friends of the Earth, 26-28 Under-wood Street, London NI 71Q (071-90 1555). For household advice about energy, contact "Helping the earth begins at home", PO Box 200, Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 92Z (0345 247347).

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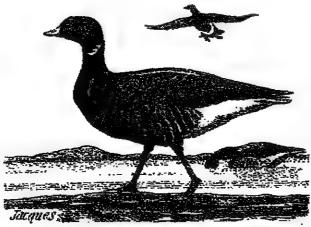
Winter feast on the estuary

Feather report

ON THE east coast estuaries, the sandbanks disappear and emerge again with the move-ments of the tides. But if they are there on a winter's morning, there will almost certainly be some brent geese resting on them. These are quite small geese, which came down from Siberia in October. They fly fast, with necks stretched out, and look very dark in the air except for their white sterns: but when they are walking, you can distinguish the black head and neck, with its slight white collar, from the greyer back and underparts.

They feed by preference on the cel-grass that grows along muddy shores, dipping their necks gracefully into the water to pluck it. However, since they have grown commoner in Britain in recent years, they have also taken to feeding in the pastures at dusk or on a moonlit night. As they fly in, they give an eerie barking cry, and farmers are not entirely pleased to hear them coming.

A more down-like bird that may well be out on the sandbank with them is a shelduck. If the brents are rather duck-like geese, the shelduck are rather geese-like duck. They have bottle-green heads and bright red legs and beaks, and black-and-white bodies with a broad orange



Duck-like: the brent goose comes from Siberia in October

a rather grotesque, shoulder-

shrugging way.

There is a flash of white on the open water. It is the light catching the breast of a great crested grebe as it dives. These grebes seek sheltered sea bays and estuaries when the lakes start to freeze. By now they have lost their chestnut ruffs, and are slimmer-looking birds, silvery-white and black.

The waders that winter on the estuary are even more affected by the tides than the waterfowl. A wide stretch of sand where hundreds of them were gulping down small morsels of seafood disappears under water, and the waves beat on the sea wall. They may have a long way to go before they can find another feeding

place. But as the hours pass, and the sea slowly retreats, they come back - shooting in over the water, lifting their wings for a moment above their heads, then settling

down to eat again.
Where there are saltmarshes and grazing fields just in from the sea, redshanks are usually quite common. A wild string of notes, panic stricken in tone yet beautiful in timbre, is how you are first likely to detect them. Then a small flock hurdes past, all flickering white above. When they land on a stretch of mud, they bob nervously, and their

long red legs are conspicuous. Oystercatchers are also very noisy, with sharp, ventriloqui-al piping calls that ring out pied waders, with long red bills and pink legs, and sometimes feed in enormous flocks. The small waders work more silently. Along the wa-ter's edge there will almost certainly be dunlin, going in and out of the last shallow inches of the turning waves. On some stretches of coast, the

pale sanderlings and the stout

knots are common, on others

they are hardly ever seen.

over the shore. They are large

FINALLY, one very different bird of the shore that appears when winter gets hard - the snow bunting. It is not so white now as it is in its summer home on the mountain slopes of Iceland, but when two or three of them flit by they look quite like snowflakes. It is the weed seeds of the shore that interest them: and I have once seen a snow bunting foraging by a pool where only an inch or two away a dunlin was wading.

need on a British estuary. DERWENT MAY

Birds with very contrasting ways of life — but both finding

the refuge and the food they

large gull flocks on inland reservoirs and rubbish tips for rarities. Twitchers — rushy warbler nr Padstoe. Cornwall: Forster's tern at Milliste, N. Ireland; Kentish plover at Fleetwood, Lancashire. Details from Birdline, 0891

DIANA LEADBETTER

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Christmas in an instant

Frances Bissell, The Times cook, offers a festive meal without turning on the oven



NOT everybody wants a thoroughly organised Christmas, minutely planned to the last mince pie, the spare roll of foil and allocation of wash-

ing-up duties. There is no need to feel guilty if you did not order your bird weeks ago or make your pudding on Sur-up Sunday, and no need to panic if you have not yet drawn up on graph paper your countdown to the Christmas meal.

Although I will happily spend days shopping and cooking, I know that not everybody can or chooses to. With my plan for the Christmas meal, you do not even need to put the oven on. The dishes are easy to prepare, full of flavour and eye appeal, and entirely sea-sonal and festive.

If Christmas would not be Christmas without a turkey, but you do not relish wrestling with a mammoth and dealing with the inevitable cold leftovers, dismantle the bird into its separate parts. The breast alone will make an ample meal cooked in the way I have described. Pomegranates and hazelnuts may not appeal as much to you as they do to me. I have also marinated turkey in white wine and extra virgin olive oil and grilled it as described, which is good, but I like the garnish of deep, red pomegranate seeds and the sweet yet slightly acidic note that the juice imparts to the sauce in a way that does not interfere with the wine. This is an important consideration, since one wants to bring

out the best bottles at Christmas.

I shall happily drink champagne before the meal and with the first course. With the main course, I hope to persuade my husband, Tom, to open a bottle of fine claret, and the state of the claret. such as our last bottle of 1975 Chateau Giscours, one of this château's best ever vintages, and which you can still obtain from Corney & Barrow, 12 Helmet Row, London ECIV 3QJ (071-251 4051). With the ices, we shall drink a Moscato d'Asti or Asti

Spurnante, which I shall serve with almond biscuits.

For starters today, here is a recipe wrote down in my brother's kitchen recently when I was in Hong Kong. He cooked an impromptu dinner for us from ingredients he had bought on his way home from work.

Warm leek and smoked salmon salad

(serves 4 to 6) 4 lb/340g slim, young leeks 4lb/110g button, cap or oyster mushrooms

extra virgin olive oil small salad leaves 4 lb/230g smoked salmon

lemon juice to taste freshly ground black pepper

Peel and trim the leeks, and slice them. Rinse them thoroughly, and drain them. Wipe and slice the mushrooms, or if oyster mushrooms, tear them into wedges. Hear the oil in a frying pan, two to three tablespoons will be sufficient. and gently cook the leeks until wilted and almost tender. Add the mushrooms, and continue cooking until just done. Meanwhile, ar-range salad leaves on serving plates. Cut the smoked salmon into strips, and quickly toss it with the leeks and mushrooms in the pan before spooning it on to the plate. Season with lemon juice and black pepper, and pour the cooking juices over the salad before serving. Add the black olives.

A variation of this replaces the leeks and mushrooms with slim green beans and waxy salad po-tatoes, which are steamed or boiled instead of fried.

Marinated grilled turkey escalopes with pomegranates and hazelmst sauce

(mys 4) 4 or 8 escalopes cut from the turkey breast, about 1'2/b/680g altogether

2 ripe red pomegranates 6 pt/70ml hazelmut oll

3in/7.5cm twist of lemon zero 3in/7.5cm piece of cinnamon stick



crushed seeds of 8 cardamom pods freshly ground black pepper

4 pt/140ml arrivey stock I then ground hazelnuts freshly grated lemon zest toasted blanched, lightly crushed

Cut the pomegranates in half, and squeeze out the juice, leaving the seeds of one half for decoration. Whisk with the hazelnut oil and pomegranate juice to blend the two, and pour it over the meat. Add the lemon zest and spices, including the ground pepper. Cover and marinate for several hours, or overnight if more convenient. Re-move the meat from the marinade, and dry it on paper towels. Put the marinade into a saucepan, bring to the boil, skim the foam from the surface, and simmer it for five minutes. Strain into a clean saucepan, add the stock, bring to the boil, and simmer while you grill the surkey, placing it on an oiled rack under a hot grill, or on a well-

seasoned or oiled cast-iron grill or griddle. Turn once only, and do not overcook the meat. Cooking time will depend on the thickness of the escalopes, but the juices should run clear and not pink. Put to one side when cooked, and finish the sauce by reducing it to a well-flavoured gravy. Stir in the ground hazelnuts, and add salt to taste at this stage, if you wish, or allow guests to add their own. Put the turkey on a serving platter. Scatter the pomegranate seeds, lemon zest and crushed hazelnuts on top, and

spoon the sauce over it. This slightly spicy, slightly sweet turkey goes well with couscous, bulgour wheat, mashed potatoes or a number of rice dishes, including wild rice, a white risotto, or a fluffy pilaff of Basmati rice. For vegetables, I would serve stewed celery

For as many cheese crisps as you want, cut lin/2.5cm cubes of Gruyère, Jarisberg, Comte or other similar hard cheese. Place on a

lined baking sheet with plenty of space between to allow for spreading, and bake for three to five minutes in the top half of a hot oven at 200C/400F, gas mark 6. The cheese will melt and will then harden as it cools on emerging from the oven and can be lifted off the baking sheet. Plain, these make very good snacks with drinks. Prepared in the following way, you can turn them into a very impres-

Geat's cheese erisps and salad

(serves 4) 70z/200g goar's cheese log 16 cheese crisps, made as previously described

all selad leaves, such as rocket, mache mbs lettuce), baby spinach, herbs and watercress walnut oil and sherry vinegar dressing

Take the ends and rind off the goat's cheese, and divide into 8 slices. Put one slice between two freezes to ensure a smooth sorbet, cheese crisps, and arrange two of the last stirring, when the mixture these on each plate with a little is almost hard, can be done in a dressed salad.

thsp fresh lemon juice 1pt/570ml fresh tangerine juice is pt/70ml water

time until the mixture has a grainy, coarse texture. Serve immediately.

Tangerine sorbet (serves 6 to 8) I thsp fresh lemon juice

's pt/70ml water 10oz/280g sifted icing sugar 1 pt/570ml fresh tangerine juice

Mix the lemon juice, water and icing sugar, and stir until the sugar has dissolved. Add the tangerine juice, and freeze in a sorbetiere or ice-cream maker, or in a container placed in the freezer or ice-making compartment of the refrigerator. If using the latter method, stir the mixture from time to time as it

4 pt/430ml tangerine juice, chilled

201/280ml single cream 602/170g caster sugar I thep grated tangerine zest 3 free-range egg yolks

Bring the cream, sugar and tangerine zest to the boil, and pour it over the egg yolks, whisking continuously. Return the mixture to the saucepan, and cook over a very low heat, but without boiling and curdling the mixture, until the custard thickens and coats the back of a spoon. Remove from the heat, pour into a bowl, cool, then cover and refrigerate overnight to let the flavour ripen. Next day, mix with the tangerine juice, and freeze as described in the sorbet recipe. This, like all ices and sorbets, is best made for immediate eating, as the flavour and texture deteriorates

Frances Bissell's wine "cellar".

TONY WHITE

with keeping.

Eat up your greenies

Israeli scientists have developed a nutritious form of duckweed which they hope will be the food of the future

have seen the future, and it involves your eating duckweed.

Lacking large territory for agricultural crops. Israel has been obliged to take the lead in experimenting with new and potentially highly profit-able foodstuffs. One of the most promising, which the Israelis are hoping to bring on to the market very quickly, is lemna, the water lentil, or, as the marketing men have renamed it, "greenjes".

Greenies are simply an im-proved strain of duckweed, developed by Dr Dan Porath of Ben-Gurion University, Beer Sheva, in his role as scientific adviser to Kibbutz Tsora. Mulik Rivlin of the kibbutz says Dr Porath developed greenies over 18 months by isolating the best from more than 1.000 clones of duckweed gathered from

"They can be eaten fresh, cooked, or dried," says Mr Rivlin. "They have a very good shelf-life, and will keep fresh for two weeks. Already we have developed more than 30 recipes using them. You can have a greenies omelette, and use greenies in salads or cream and cheese dips. Dried, they



make a green wholemeal that can be used as a flour substitute for children who are allergic to glutert. They are very low in calories, but 40 per cent protein in their dry state. The crop we can get off just 100 sq m of water is hard to believe. I am sure this is the future of biotechnology, for getting a huge amount of nutritional value out of a very smali area."

Fresh greenies are green

globules, like enlarged lobes of the duckweed you might see FOOD SPY cloaking a pond or stream in summer. They are crunchy with a slight metallic tang, mildly suggestive of a marriage between watercress and bean sprouts.

Already supermarkets and specialist food shops in Israel are selling greenies, and cus-tomers have been flocking back for more. Mr Rivlin says: We hope soon to be selling abroad. At a recent food show in Israel there was interest from Japan, eastern Europe, Germany, France, Italy and England. We have already sent samples to Marks &

If greenies do succeed internationally, they will take their place in a well-established line of Israeli introductions. It was the Israelis who first developed a commercial procedure for removing the astringency from persimmons, giving the world sharon fruit. The Galia melon was an Israeli invention and is now an international

The Israelis are further planning to develop desert truffles, as enjoyed by bushmen in the Kalahari desert, into a commercial commodity. Although desert truffles are not as aromatic as European ones, they can be baked like potatoes and are said to be good for virility.

The Israelis also harbour hopes of becoming big in custard apples, with a variety called Gemer. The cultivar was obtained by back-crossing cherimoya from the high Andes with atemoya, which was itself a chance hybrid between cherimoya and a sugar apple from the low tropical plains of central America.

Gefner, smooth, sweet, juicy and firm, is reckoned to have the right balance of acidity and sweetness for the commercial success which eluded all its

However, going by the example of the sharon fruit and the Galia, Israel can expect no more than five years monopoly of anything it introduces. After that, it could be greenies



Happy to be himself: Michael Barry on television is Michael Bukht at home, where as many as 19 might sit down for a meal in the kitchen

eople sometimes get confused because I am Michael Barry on television, but I am Michael Bukht at home. This is Michael aei Bukht's house, after all, and my wife. Jenny, prefers to be Mrs Bukht.

We have a large family. There are four kids, plus grandchildren, and also the kids' husbands and lovers. It is not unusual for 14 of us to sit down at the kitchen table three or four times over a weekend. At Christmas, this grows to 19 when my brother and sister-inlaw and their children turn up. plus their children's lovers. Friends, too, mix in happily

with our kids and their friends. However, we have always loved having the sort of house that people pour through. We liken it to a beach and the tide sweeping in One minute there are 20 people milling around and the next the tide has swept out and we are left on our own like limpets clinging to a rock.

My wife makes wonderful cakes and preserves, but when garlic is involved it is down to me. For family and informal entertaining. I put big platters of good food on the table for everyone to help themselves.

A favourite of mine is southeast Asian food - it has such powerful flavours: lemon grass, coconut, chilli. It is also desperately easy to cook.

Cooking comes naturally. One of my earliest memories. ROBIN YOUNG at the age of eight, is of digging up some potatoes -

Catering for a tidal wave of family

ENTERTAINING AT HOME

Michael Barry

before they were ready - that my father was growing. I washed them, put them in the oven and tried various toppings. Amazingly, the pohammering I got was. Apart from family, we often

have friends round for supper in the kitchen. We always ask people we are fairly certain will like each other. The perfect party for me is having a whole lot of people who know each other and a whole lot of people who do not and who all find each other fascinating and have to be thrown out of the

house at two in the morning. Occasionally, we clean up rather more formal meal for eight or ten. It is always a fivecourse meal with classic French food. On these occasions, my wife does the table

I shop wherever I happen to be — Sainsbury's, Waitrose, Safeway, Marks & Spencer, As for wine, I have very little interest in the stuff. I have no objection to other people enjoying it, but I do not drink

One thing I really hate is

A feast of food in art

IF IT is true that we eat first with our eyes.

detailed oils of oysters and champagne next then a banquet awaits visitors to the to slices of fresh lemons. Provence by Roger Liewellyn Alexander Gallery in Waterloo Shantz, John Woolmer's French vineyards, (Frances Bissell writes). From now until and Breton and Cornish fishing scenes by December 31, more than 200 paintings, oils, Catherine Ogden. Prices range from £150 to watercolours, pastels and miniatures by 30 British artists will depict every aspect of food E4.000 (Liewellyn Alexander Fine Paintings, 124-126 The Cut, Waterloo, London SE1 8LN: 071-620 1322). - including Edna Bizon's meticulously

background music. I think it is

gross. Conversation is what

dinner is supposed to be

about. What I do rather like,

though, is having a small

concert or recital at the end of

dinner. My wife, a dancer, is

particularly interested in ba-

roque. Elizabethan and

Renaissance dances, so some-

times we have what is known

as the Waits Band - the old

name for a group of players.

Sadly, we do not get asked

back as often as we might.

People are scaredto recip-

rocate. It is so stupid: I do not

go to their houses to mark

them out of ten. Actually, I am very partial to a fried egg

Michael Bukht's desperately easy Thai-style chicken

l کا boned chicken 4oz button mushrooms ain of coconut cream 2 cloves garlic small onion

21sp coriander powder 2-1tsp chilli powder a couple of stalks each of lemon grass and Galingale (a kind of ginger) or, falling that, an inch and a half fresh

grated rind and juice of a lime ltsp dark brown sugar

Put coconut cream into a large pan. Bring to the boil. Put all the spice ingredients into a blender (add water if necessary) and give them a thorough zonking. Add this mixture to the coconut cream and bring to the boil, simmering gently for ten minutes until the oil comes out. Add the chicken, cut into walnutsize pieces, and the washed. trimmed but not peeled mushrooms, and stir until the chicken is cooked. I always add a teaspoon of shrimp paste as well, but this is optional. Serve with rice.

Michael Bukht is programme controller of Classic FM. As Michael Barry, he is a co-presenter of BBC2's Food and Drink programme.



Odds-on winners at the off-licence

market queues and mail order wine supplies? Relax. Your nearest off-licence opens late, usually offers free glass loan and local delivery plus case discounts, as well as taking big orders on a sale or return basis. All you have to do is to decide which of the season's wines listed below you fancy with the festive feast. ODDBINS

Festive fizz: 1988 Argyle Pinot Noir Chardonnay £9.99, £8.56 if you buy seven bottles

Brian Croser's zesty, smoky Oregon fizz upstages, according to some, his masterly Australian sparkler. Festive white: 1990 Cosme Palacio y Hermanos

Astonishingly good, all-pur-pose festive white rioja whose gloriously juicy, smoky oak flavour is oozing with fruit. An elegant, classic, peachy-smoky alternative is the dry 1990 Château Doisy-Däene Sec Sauternes priced at £7.99. Festive red: 1984 Chateau Cantemerle, Margaux E7.99 Fifth growth Margaux and, despite an off vintage, it shows deliciously fragrant and cedary claret with warmth and fruit. Cheaper is the superb pure, smoky, raspberry fruit of Chapoutier's 1990 Crozes-Hermitage. Meysonnières (£7.49). Festive sticky: 1990 Vouvray Moelleux Grande Année, Domaine des Aubuisières, £7.99 Grand, softly sweet, non sticky

equally well with rich pates and light puddings. • THRESHER, WINE RACK, BOTTOMS UP Festive fizz: Hamm Premier Cru Brut, £14.99 Pleasant, light, waxy-appley style makes this exclusive Thresher group champagne worth tracking down.
Festive white: 1990 Rolly Gassmann Auxerrois, £7.99 Magnificent, classy Alsace white whose smoky-spicy style and rich, citrussy, almost grapefruit taste would go down well with goose or duck Alsace wine lovers should look out too, at Wine Rack only, for

Loire white whose wonderful

rich, waxy, minerally style goes

the splendid ripe, opulent, spicy, violet scented 1990 Zind-Humbrecht Riesling. Turckheim (£9.39). Festive red: 1990 Pinot Noi Carneros, £11.49 The sweet, soft, juicy plum and damson fruit of this top California red should bring out the best in turkey. Festive sticky: 1983 Dow,

£15.99 By no means the cheapest source of vintage port but this spicy, plummy, fruit cake-like sticky is so good with stilton, I forgive them. If half-bottles of a Christmas sticky are what you are after, then try the light, sweet, aniscedy 1989 Domaine Coyeux Nativelle for £5.69.

• THE VICTORIA WINE COMPANY Festive fizz: 1983/6 Victoria Wine Champagne,

Splash out on either the delicious, deep, mutty '83 or elegant, toasty '86. This year's best, cheap, vintage High Street champagne. Alternatively, try Victoria Wine's excellent, fresh, waxy-biscuity nonvintage, pinot meunier-

Jane MacQuitty picks out the best

> wine buys at your

local branch

dominated Paul d'Hurville champagne. Still good value, though now £9.99, not £8.99. Festive white: 1991 Shingle Peak, Marlborough Sauvignon, £4.99 The Spence brothers of Matua Valley make this zingy, goose-berry and elderflower-like aperitif and festive fish wine exclusively for Vic Wine. Festive red: 1985 Château Maucaillou, Moulis, £10.29 Ripe, rich, elegant green pepper claret style makes Maucaillou a winner. Serve with York or Wiltshire cured ham, and even turkey. Festive sticky: Yalumba Museum Show Reserve Muscat, Rutherglen, £6.89 half bottle Australians drool over the "intense raisined fruit" of sweet liqueur muscats such as this, and so should you. Drink

Festive sticky: Clairette de Die Tradition, £6.19

Delicious soft, ripe, musky

grapey scent and taste spreads festive magic when married

 MAJESTIC WINE
WAREHOUSES Festive fizz: 1983 Shadov Creek Brut, E5.99 Deep burnt toast bouquet and full, creamy lemony fruit make this equal pinot noir and chardonnay fizz from California a £5.99 star. Majestic's own simple, fruity J. de Telmont Grande Réserve Brut (£12.99) is an acceptable after-

with Christmas pudding.

Festive white: 1991 Sauvignon de Haut Poitou, £4.29 A useful dry white Christmas standby whose fresh, zingy, herbaceous, gooseberry-laden style makes a good aperitif and smoked salmon wine. Festive red: 1988 Penfolds Bin 389 South Australia Cabernet Shiraz, £6.99 Stupendous cassis, bramble loganberry and eucalyptus Australian mouthful should be downed with game dishes such as jugged hare and venison. Alternatively, try Majestic's 1990 Domaine de Fauterie Saint Joseph (£7.99), a gorgeous, soft, spice bramble cassis and violet-charged

Festive sticky: Lustau Almacenista Oloroso Viejo de Jerez. Viuda de Antonio Borrego, £11.99 Perfect old, ripe, mutty Christ-mas sherry to drink with mince pies and before church. Intriguing dry yet sweet style.

DAVISONS Festive fizz: 1986 Charles Ellner, £16.99 Satisfyingly rich, muty cham-pagne with an attractive per-furned finish shows that this family-run chain knows its Festive white: 1991 Châteauneuf du-Pape Blanc,

Domaine Font de Michelle, £12.50 Top white mones like this rich. elegant, lemon and lime scented wine deserve a place at the Christmas table, especially with smoked starters. Festive red: 1988 Savignyles-Beaune, Domaine Pavelot, £9.99 Almost any '88 burgundy listed here would go down well on Christmas day, but this more robust plummy Savigny

is the best value for money.

Best Christmas wine books

 Michael Broadbent's Pocket Guide to Wine Vintages (Mitchell Beazley, £6.99) Scholarly, easy-access vintage information from the head of Christie's wine department. Includes duds and delights from classic French regions to the New World's best, together with top Austrian and Hungarian vintages, plus the tops from the Iberian peninsula

 The Grapes of Ralph by Ralph Steadman (Ebury Press, £19.99) Steadman's weird and wacky world of wine: great illustrations and intriguing text, much of which appeared first in Oddbins' wine lists. Look out here for such eccentric stuff as The Great American Wine Slob, plus wine wanderings in Chile, Peru and Lanzarote.

 Cyril Ray's Compleat
 Imbiber No 16 (Mitchell Beazley, £16.99) 1992's most stylishly written fireside and bedroom table wine tales, edited by the late, great Cyril Ray, No 16 includes such gastro-treats as Herningway on hunger, Peter Langan on drinking, Laurie Lee

and a Spanish tavern, plus Cyril Ray on Mouton-Rothschild, champagne, Pétrus et al.

 The Art and Science of Wine by James Halliday and Hugh Johnson (Mitchell Beazley, £19.99) 1992's best wine book: expert, well written, concise guide to winemaker's choices in vineyard and cellar. Dedicated to the genie in the bottle, this instructive book nonetheless goes a long way to demystifying the various processes, options and results that can take place in the vineyard, the winery and finally the bottle. Wine buffs only.

 Chardonnay by Tim Atkin (Viking, £13.99) Dense gazetteer approach, as is the rest of this grapeby-grape series, but still an enjoyable read on the world's most fashionable variety, described by Atkin as Madonna, Princess Diana and Jerry Hall all rolled into one. According to Atkin, "great chardonnay is all about muance and complexity", and he tours the world in search of it, most diligently in France, California and Australia.



Best food books for Christmas

• The Tenth Muse by Sir Harry Luke (The Rubicon Press, £12.95) Re-edition of his writings on culinary matters, amassed over a period of years as a British diplomat, and first published in 1954. Exuberant pleasure in the subject, eclectic tastes and a scholarly precision when it comes to acknowledging the source of every single recipe, down to "HCL's Georgian cook, British Mission, Tiflis", give this a high rating in the enjoyment scale. Most of the recipes are quite accessible.

• What's Cooking by Marguerite Patten (Hawker Publications,

More culinary biographical writing, apily sub-titled "recipes of a lifetime". Her career in food spans 60 years, and the first part of the book describes her work as a cookery demonstrator before and during the second world war, when she was employed by the Ministry of Food to show people how to make the most of limited food rations. Many of the recipes are spot on for today's budget-conscious times.

 The New Pauper's Cookbook by Jocasta Innes and Kate Harris

(Vermilion, £8.99) A different book to the one which first appeared in 1970. It has a whole new chapter on pasta and one on vegetari-an recipes, and a much expanded chapter on one-pot meals, including the onion, bacon and potato hotpot which was a favourite dish during the early 1970s and deserves to be passed on to a new generation.

 The Memsahibs' Cookbook by Rhona Aitken (Piatkus, £10.99) and The Medieval Cookbook by Maggie Black (British Museum Press, £14.95)

Two books that provide us with a little escapism through cookery. The first is an evocative collection of recipes of Anglo-Indian cookery by a latter-day memsahib in Ceylon in the 1940s and 50s. The ingredients, with very few exceptions, such as tamarind pulp, are readily available, and the recipes are not at all complicated. The same is true of the medieval recipes, which have been glossed and adapted admi-rably for the modern cook. The pork roast with spiced wine, for example, would make a fine new year's dish, which you can follow with fried fig pastries or a cream custard tart flavoured with soften

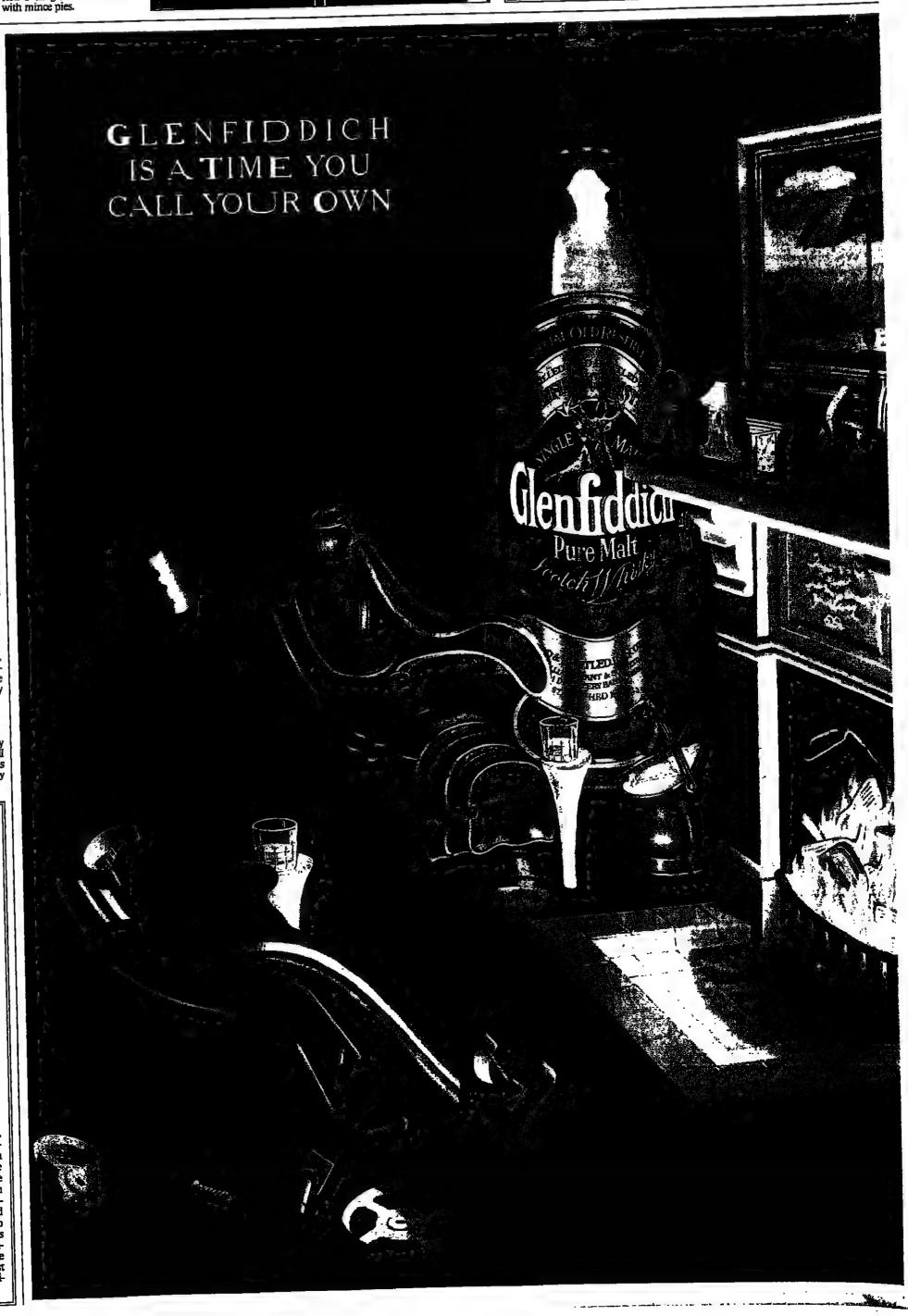
flavoured with saffron.

• Spain on a Plate by Maria Jose
Sevilla (BBC, £14.95)
Authentic. comprehensive and delightfully set in context, of all the crop of inevitable Spanish cookbooks this year, I like this best.

• The Essentials of Classic Italian Cooking by Marcella Hazan (Macmillan, £20)

Worth the price for the short bread chapter alone, where foccacia and its regional variations are explained in sufficient detail for even the novice breadmaker to succeed. If I kept only one book from all the new ones I have seen this year, this would be it.

FRANCES BISSELL



MY PERFECT WEEKEND

MARGARET FORSTER

Novelist

Where would you go? I hate travelling, so my idea of a perfect weekend would be not having to go anywhere. I would stay in the hamlet of Loweswater in Cumbria, where my husband, Hunter Davies, and I live and work for six months of the year.

Where would you stay? In our perfect house that we have had for five years. It is two different styles: the back is a Lake District farmhouse and the front an elegant Jane Austen house. It is beautifully proportioned and I love it.

Who would be your

perfect companion? My husband, or any of my three children, but only if they were in the right mood. I wouldn't mind being absolutely solitary.

What essential piece of clothing would you take? I have my wellingtons here plus storm wear, but if the weekend was perfect, I wouldn't need them.

What would you cas! Raspberries, strawberries and peaches for breakfast; a picnic lunch of bread, cheese and apple; and for supper, which I would eat outside. I'd have grilled trout, tiny green beans, a crunchy salad of different lettuces, herbs and olives and summer pudding. What would you drink?

Chablis. Which books would you

take to read? The books I've got on the go at the moment. I am halfway through Trollope by Victoria Glendinning, and I've been sent an advance proof copy of A Suitable Boy by Vikram Seth. It is published in March and will be the new thrill for next year. At 1,400 pages, it is just the sort of length of book I like for a weekend.

I am virtually tone-deaf. Other people fantasise about their Desert Island Discs selection, but it would give me no trouble — silence

What music would you

please, eight times.

I'd like the telephone and my husband's ridiculous lax

machine disconnected. What piece of art would you like to have?

love our Sheila Fell paintings and never tire of walking into the living room and looking at them. They are landscapes of the northern

Who would be your least welcome guest? Everyone would be unwelcome. How could it be a perfect weekend if there What three things

would you most like to do? 1. Climb Grasmoor, the fell after which our house is named, and which looms over it. The view from the top is magnificent — three lakes, two tarns, mountain peaks of the Sca Fell range and far off the glitter of the Solway Firth. 2. Swim right out into the middle of Crummock Water. 3. Lie in the garden and read.

To whom would you send a postcard? To my daughter Caitlin in Botswana, asking: "How can you bear to give this

What souvenir would you bring home? Heather and flat stones from the Crummock Water

> Interview by Rosanna Greenstreet

Little-Known Health 'Cures' Doctors Never Tell You

If you take high blood pressure modication you should know about this severe side effect
 What sharp course figurity problems like

A low intake of these 2 vitamins may lead to

Which long term deficiency can lend to hidney

e If you have arthritis or rhouseatism, these 2

Trembling matcles may be a symptom of this

e This group of vitamins helps protect your lange

Bursitis can be caused by a low intake of these 3

up can be caused by this food

Certain side problems may be triggered by

O Why some people are more likely to develop

· Everyone should know this surgest steep

supplements may help

• Special foods that protect against beart &

o Which long lerm deficiency can bring on

Deck the halls with boughs of anything

Francesca

Greenoak on the abundant winter foliage just

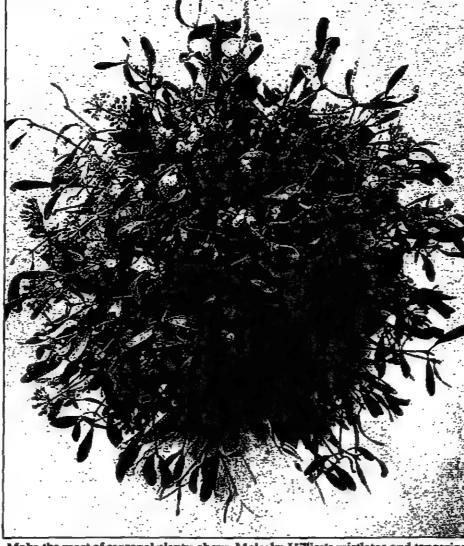
waiting to be used in festive decorations

week before Christmas, most of us scurry down our chilled A gardens glancing neither to left nor right. Malcolm Hillier is unusual; instead of shutting the garden out behind the curtains, he invites it in for full participation in the festive decoration. Twigs, evergreens, berries and fruits play their part together with imported cut flowers, dried flowers, ribbons and other artefacts.

I first visited Mr Hillier's garden in the summer several years ago to discuss flower arranging with garden plants. The season has shifted, but he shows equal inventiveness with the winter plants he uses in Christmas decorations. His London house (the past home of James Whistler, the painter and etcher) has a long, narrow garden, full of plants and ornaments: rosemary, myrtie and lilies, with ivies, roses and jasmine trained over steps, arbours and colonnades.

For Christmas, Mr Hillier makes elaborate set-piece arrangements which combine sweet-smelling pine or fir foliage of ivies and variegated elaeagms. He makes wreaths of densely-needled sprigs of fir (or more unusually skimmia) embellished with holly berries on long twigs with the leaves removed. An alternative, longlasting outdoor decoration is constructed by securing several fir branches in a fanshape with five holly stems (similarly deberried), decked with bows of red ribbon.

My favourites among the Hillier suggestions for indoors



Make the most of seasonal plenty: above, Malcohn Hillier's mistietoe and tangerine ball: top right, the silvery spheres of honesty: right, holly ilex Lawsonia

are a hanging, bell-shaped holly decoration, and a striking mistletoe and baby rangerine orb. Both are based on wet foam blocks: 30cm high by 18cm square, carved into a cone for the bell: 15cm cube pushed in at the corners for the orb. Covered firmly with chicken wire, with strong, thin mossing wire (available from florists) secured at the top to make a loop for hanging, they are ready for the short sprigs of

foliage to be pressed in. Mr Hillier used 120 sprigs

a When too many vitamine can be wrone than

Which vitamin and mineral supplements anyone over 46 should be taking and in what

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a What are the less named hard sources of

none of all

of berried holly for the bell. 1.5kg of mistletoe and 40 sprigs of flowering ivy for the orb. The tangerines are skewered and looped with wire and fixed to the inner structure. Ribbon is made into a bow at the base and wound around the top loop. A more economical version of the orb would use a greater proportion of ivy

Unlike Mr Hillier, I did not, in the lush and plentiful months, look ahead to winter needs. Nevertheless, inspired by his example, and driven by the fact that the children, home from school and supercharged with excitement, are mad to get on with decorating. I took an unhopeful trawl

around the garden. It was not as bad as I feared; lovely beige-white stems of honesty, which make silvery moons when the seeds and outer membranes are gently rubbed away; plenty of ivy and holly, some with berries; rosemary looking fresh and green; twigs from hazel and wiggly contorted hazel; beech with elegant long buds, and a few dematis seedheads.

There are unexpected trophies in the form of small dark brown spiraea seedheads and lump-dropping conical ones

IT WAS all very well for William

in paler brown from the buddleias. There are some somment of hellebores and lots of fiercely fragrant winter honeysuckle. Variegated leaves from White Nancy, the best of the variegated lamiums, and lovely glossy dark rosemary and choisya foliage will set off

Variegated by or holly can cover candle holders or be arranged at the base of the Christmas pudding or cake. Decorations can also be ed-

BEST BUYS

take out a subscription with The Royal Horticultural Society. The £27 membership (to RHS, 80 Vincent Square, London SW1 2PE) includes free entry to the shows at Vincent Square and RHS gardens, monthly issues of The Garden and garden advice. Indicate you are a Times reader to receive a free illustrated five-year garden diary. Membership for the North-ern Horticultural Society

(Crag Lane, Harrogate, N Yorks HG3 1QB) is £19 and includes the quarterly North-

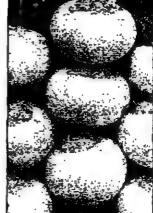


ible: use sugared flowers and fruits to ornament sweet desserts. Paint the surfaces of pansy, violet or primrose flowers, or mint leaves, with lightly beaten egg white, place them on a sheet of greaseproof paper and sieve icing sugar over them. They take two to three hours to dry in a warm place, and last several days.

As the garden comes into the house, so decoration extends to the garden. After a recent trip to the United States, where exterior decoraMr Hillier returned with new enthusiasm for adorning the clipped holly and box in his front garden with Christmas lights. Special outdoor lights are available at most garden centres, and look pretty in evergreens or threaded through the bare branches of deciduous trees, and it is a pleasure which can be shared with every passer-by.

• Malcoim Hillier's Christmas is published by Dorling Kindersiey (£12.99).

AS A late Christmas present



Harvest time: turnips

WEEKEND TIPS

 Check stored fruit and vegetables for signs of decay.

 Bring pots of bulbs indoors when flower buds are beginning to reveal colour. Continue to remove

x,y,z

debris and dead leaves from ponds, rock gardens, troughs and sinks.

 Harvest turnips and store for use.

 Prune shrub roses which require shaping or some removal of old wood.

● Keep off the soil when it is wet; lightly fork and weed in

dry, milder conditions. ern Gardener and lectures.

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HOME & GARDEN

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A decided of leather Green A Comment of the Comment of t

Wordsworth, folling in the warm grass above Tintern Abbey in the blissful days before tabloid newspapers, Channel 4. and the full flowering of the support group industry had brought ubiquitous suspicion into the world, to identify the best portion of a good man's life as his little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love; the sage of Grasmere would never be required to try putting this into practice in the bucket ing rain outside Cricklewood sorting office in the annus horribilis of 1992. I had gone to the sorting office because, despite what you may have

been led to believe, the postman always rings once, not much help to those who work in lofts, so that I frequently come downstairs to find a billet doux on the mat explaining that a parcel is now back where it started, and I have to hurtle round to collect it, particularly at this time of year, when generous folk tend to send me perishables; you do not want to leave geese or mangoes hanging about too long. Anyway, there is a bus stop outside the sorting office, and I parked just aft of it, and when I came out again into the horizontal rain, some ten minutes later, an elderly woman who had been standing at the stop when I went in was still standing there, even more sodden than before.

Now, I am not a good man, my life has not been a chronicle of corking portions. I cannot remember when I last had a go at an unremembered act, but just because of all this I have built up a fair backlog of social guilt, so I said to the woman: "It's a filthy day, can I give you a lift?"

Whereupon she turned, slowly, and peered at me through the streaming rainhood she had pulled down to nose-

"Do I know you?" she said. "No." I said, "no, you don't, but I live round here. I know what this bus service is like, and since it's coming down cats

"Whereabours round here?" she said. I did not have a hat. I was just popping round to the sorting office, park outside, nip in, sign, nip out, no need to take a hat, no need to take an umbrella. The rain ran down my neck. But I told her my address. She considered it for a while. The rain started seeping through my shirt, from

Alan Coren



Raindrops keep

falling on my good deeds

"I can't get into someone's car, just like that," she said, after a bit. "You could be anybody."

It is difficult to know exactly how to compose your features so that the world would never take you for a mugger, a rapist, a serial cannibal. I showed her the parcel I had collected.

"Look," I said, "you can see my name and address on it."

We peered at the label together. The

ink was beginning to run. She lifted the rim of her rainhood, but before she was able to complete her inspection, a man who had now arrived at the bus stop stepped forward and said: "Are you

"No," I said, "no, we're just looking at this label so that this lady can see where

"He wants to give me a lift," she explained to the man. "In his car," she added; unnecessarily of course, except for those attuned to the sub-textual. Things, said those three little syllables, can happen in cars. Doors can be locked, windows wound tight, seats suddenly reclined, radios turned up to drown shrieks, axe blows, all that. It was the man's turn to look at me. He was in no hurry. He did not need to be. He had a hat. He had a raincoat "What's this about a parcel?" he said.

"This lady wanted proof of who I was," I said.

"Only reasonable," he said, "these days. Not," he continued, to her, "that the parcel proves anything. It's like when people say they're from the Gas Board etcetera, they have badges and cards and everything, and the next thing you know, well ... not," and here he turned back to me, "that I'm saying anything, I'm sure you're above board. I'm sure this lady doesn't have anything to worry about.' "Well, you say that," said the elderly woman, "but he didn't ask me where I

was going. I thought that was a bit funny. You can see her point," said the man. "Oh, for God's sake," I said, "I would

have asked her where she was going after she said whether or not she wanted "I'd go along with that," said the

man, to the woman. "Makes sense." [thought: I really can't thump this sactimonious bastard, my only witness would be the old woman, she already thinks I'm the Cricklewood Ripper, the prosecution would have a field day. So I

"Look, it's all been a bit of a mistake, I'm sorry I bothered you, good luck with the bus," and turned towards my car. At which the man said: "Hang on a minute," and this time I thought he is

going to attempt to restrain me, I really will have to stick one on him, and I can't just drive off while he's rolling about, the bloody woman has my address. I shall arrive home to find the front garden full of the Old Bill: but fortunately for all of us, what he then said was: "I'm going that way, too, she'd be all right if I was in the car with her, wouldn't you, dear?"

Oh. yes, she'd be all right if he was in the car, no problem at all. So that's where, a little after that, we all were, she beside me, he in the back. "You can drop me at the corner of Dollis Hill Avenue." she said. The man said: "I'm going to Colindale, if that's not out of Your way."

At the corner of Dollis Hill Avenue, I got out and went round to open the old lady's door.

"Do you know that man?" she said. sotto voce, as I shut it again. "No." I said.

"Well," she said. "I hope you're all right with him sitting behind you like that I mean, he could be anybody."





Shock, horror, probe: a shattering discovery for the characters from a 1934 American detective film, Murder in the Private Car

Murder most fun

down zee passarge but when I reach my cabeen, I am locked "Good God old gal, bad show. But don't despair! Mistn't forget Blighty an' all that." But thees Resistance, it is

You might well mistake this for a idured episode of 'Allo 'Allo', but its even more ham and farcical. Tis is an exchange between two chracters in 'The Last Train From Phis", one of the scenarios in the Hw to Host a Murder game. It is Jule 1940, and Nazi troops are abut to enter Paris. The roads ofth are jammed. There is not a to be found on any train.

true Agatha Christie style, the eint characters receive an anonymus letter offering them safe pasage on a train bound for sothern France First at the station (m south London living room is maguerading as the Pullman calage) is Mary Kohn Trairie, whse demure satin frock and lacy bluson belie her ruthless ambitiq. Then Mary spies shady Mal dad lamp), with his baggy gangstes suit and pencil moustache.

Acanwhile Belinda Screete's crison velvet dress and golden trises are causing a stir. This semstress to the beau monde once anused suspicion when her husbad was electrocuted by her seling machine. Nearby (left of the tell is the Englishman Khover Tageante who, courteous to a falt, shows Belinda to her cabin. H suit and Oxford accent seem duiously perfect - too thin a veeer to disguise this member of th British secret service.

from the far end of the platform (orrather, behind the sofa) comes Euope's most eligible bachelor, Dke Schwäzhe B. U. Klare. This syshbuckling swordsman, with hil Alsatian lilt and evening dress dipping with military decorations,

Annie Rankin and seven friends try their hands at a game of farcical detection



Ham acting at home: a scene from "The Last Train From Paris"

is rumoured to have hired assassins. Flouncing towards him is the blonde Barbra Z. Enhussie, who is as brazen as she is spoilt.

Hardly has the train gathered steam than we learn from a taped host and linchpin, has been stabbed in compartment nine. Thus the stage is set. It is soon clear that we are not all strangers. Connections are made, clues divulged. Does no one have a skeleton-free cupboard?

Originality is luckly not the aim of the game. Motives are cumningly drawn (and spuriously expanded to snorts of laughter). But subtlety is limited, as the character names bear out the Biggles prototype shot down over occurried territory is called Wey Awfcorce, the glamorous gossip-monger, Idelle Chattre. And, no prizes for guessing, the Pullman car is named Desire.

"When my plane was grounded, one had to make the best of it. And if that meant shacking up with the nearest Brigitte, well, that was my war efforti" Who could tell that Wey's Brigitte was no peasant, but Fiona? Who leaked the Duke's ploy to marry idelle and so take over her country? How did gun-running Mal know of Khover's designs on

Fions? A little knowledge, it seems,

A successful murder should be carefully stage-managed. With four male and four female parts, the host casts the players. Bach is sent an invitation with a character description and dress suggestions. Costumes and props can enhance the drama, while an accent not only fills out the personality but can be a great source of amusement. So, too, can individual additions such as James's disappearance after round one to give gung-ho Wey a handlebar moustache.

The makers claim to "provide the menu and the conversation", but they do not write the script. What is included is the structure in the form of five rounds, the character outlines and the clues. These can be a springboard for plausible dialogue, but also make useful prompts in times of inhibition.

The pace picks up as we move to the dining car for baked cod and peas. Sitting at a table (albeit the kitchen pine variety) crystallises the intrigue. How does Mal know that Khover is the Duke's spy, or that Fiona was Idelle's agent? Sarah keeps forgetting to disclose Barbra's public clues and Belinda is dishing out ice-cream amid a flurry of guessing. Finally any semblance of order crumbles when Mary reveals that Wey carried call girls in his aeroplane.

Our solution was ingenious but a bit far-fetched. In every round, dossiers for each character list tidbits known about themselves, which they keep mum, and facts known about others, which must be revealed. Everyone is aware of their own misdeeds and blackmails, and therefore all are meant to believe they have done it. Nevertheless James was not convinced because "Wey had enough motive but not enough brains to have pulled it off". At the final finger-pointing, however, no one was more surprised than the culprit.

it requires three or four hours to host a murder. The games are best suited to weekend parties or long winter evenings, when you have the time to settle into your role and absorb each clue. Then you can give free rein to your suspicions and relish the dénouement.

If sustaining suspense is the benchmark of success, then this whodunnit hits the spot. Riddled with cliches and tack it may be, and its predictable formula would seem crass in a novel. But that is not the point. Participation is the key, and as active entertainment it's a laugh.

Thespian skill is not vital but if you are prepared to ad lib or make a fool of yourself, all the better. It could be just the ticket to solve the family friction this Christmas.

Annie Rankin played How to Host a Murder courtesy of Harrods. Also available from Hamleys, House of Fraser, Virgin Game centres, and se-lected W.H. Smith; or for mail order call 0702 469013 (£19.95 plus p&p).

GENTLEMEN

A song of welcome for all human souls

In the heart of the West End, Ruth Gledhill joins in the high spirits of a congregation drawn from everywhere

CAROL SINGING

The second secon

BERKSHIRE Bracknell: Holy Trinity. Sunday 20, 6.30pm, nine les and carol service. Slough: St Paul, Sunday 20. 6.30pm, carol service. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Milton Keynes: Christ the Corner Stone, Sunday 20, 6pm, carol pervice.

CUMBRIA Carlisle Cathedral: Thursday 24, 6.30pm, festival of nine DERBYSHIRE Ashbourne: \$1 Oswaid's. anday 20, 6.30pm, nine lessons

Sunday St. John Baptist, Bunday 20, 6pm, nine lessons and carols. Chesterfield: St Mary & All Saints, Thursday 24, 7.15pm, nine lessons and carols.

Derby Cathedral, Thursday 24, 6.30pm, nine lessons and carols by candlelight.

ESSEX Chelmsford Cathedral, Saturday 19, 7,30pm, Christmas story and carols, Chelmsford · HEREFORD AND

WORCESTER Malvern Priory, Sunday 20, 6.30pm, carol service Pershore Abbey, Sunday 20, 4pm, carol service. Worcester Carladval, Wednesday 23, 7.30pm, carol

• KENT Canterbury Cathedral, Thursday 24, 3pm, carol service. LINCOLNSHIRE Lincoln Minster, Saturday 19, 7.30pm, Lincoln Chorale family

LONDON EC4: St Paul's Cathedral, Thursday 24, 4pm, Christmas carol service; 11.30pm, midnight Mass. Hornchurch: All Saints Parish Church, Ardleigh Green, Saturday 19, 7.30pm, carol

concert. SW3: St Saviour's Church Walton Street, Sunday 20, 6pm, nine lessons and carols with mince pies and mulled wine. MANCHESTER Thursday 24, noon, family carol

• OXFORDSHIRE Abingdon: St Nicholas' Church, Sunday 20, 11 am, maditional carol pervice. WEST MIDLANDS Cathedral, Thursday 24, 5.30pm, festival of nine lessons and carols; i 1.30pm, midnight Mass. Halesowen Church, Thursday 24, 6pm, service of light. WEST BUSSEX Anundel RC Cathedral Thursday 24, midnight Mass. Chichester Cathedral, Sunday 20. from carol service SCUTIAND

Edinburgh: St Giles, Sunday 20, 8pm, lessons and carols. Glasgow: St George's, Sunday 20, 11am, Christmas family service, 7pm, carol service. Aberdeen: Queen's Cross, Sunday 20, 6.30pm, worship, music and poetry for

WALES St Asaph Carnedral, Thursday 24, 7pm, festival of the nine



Voices raised: All Souls is widely renowned for its fine music



night, towards the end of their annual carol service, hundreds of young Christians, led by a band of musicians, will troop out of All

Souls church to serenade patients at the Middlesex hospital in nearby Mortimer Street. Anyone who enjoys a midwinter sing-along should be there.

All Souls, opposite Broadcasting House in Portland Place, is used regularly by the BBC for the daily service and has a reputation as the evangelical church of the establishment. As many as 2,000 people, 75 per cent of them younger than 35, attend the three services each Sunday, and the carol service has become so popular that it has been divided into three. The first was at the beginning of Advent and the last will be tomorrow night.

Unless you plan to join the Middlesex singers, there is no need to wrap up warmly. The large number of bodies packed close together quickly raises the tempera-ture to a sleep-inducing heat, but we were fortunate to have the Rev Simon Parke, a curate, as our preacher. He not only kept the congregation wide awake after an hour of non-stop carols, but reduced us to laughter by taking as the text for his sermon a British Rall announcement.

In comparing waiting for Christmas to waiting for a British Rail train, he was fervent and fiery. gesticulating often, but ending on a suitably sombre note. "What is happening to England, let alone the rest of the world? The most famous excuse for late trains is the wrong type of snow. But what we are looking at here as we wait for Christmas is the wrong type of

ministry team of nine, headed by the rector, the Rev Richard Bewes, avoids overt identification with the Church of England. This is to avoid alienating the large numbers of foreigners and non-believers, or "seekers after truth", who show up

each week. All Souls is renowned for its music. The full 60-strong All Souls orchestra, founded by the director of music. Noel Tredinnick, in 1972, can be heard at the church on the third Sunday in the month, but most other services are led by a

band of about 11. Central London can hardly be envisaged without this church, but John Nash's design was lampooned extensively after the build-ing was completed in 1823. One MP raised the subject in the House of Commons in 1824, asking who was responsible for "such a monstrosity". A cartoonist depicted Nash impaled on the spire.

Today the pews have gone, replaced by cushioned chairs, and All Souls is fitted out with the latest in sound and video technology. 'No ear may hear his coming," we sang, from "O, Little Town of Bethlehem", and it was startling at this point to see a white projector screen descend from the ceiling to obscure an enormous painting depicting Christ in the hands of his enemies. The lights dimmed, and Mr Bewes led us in the closing prayers, accompanied by slide proections of Christmas in Bethlehem. In such an atmosphere, the hopes and fears of the past year seemed bearable at last.

 Carol service followed by mince pies. tomorrow, 6.30pm. Sunday services: Holy Communion, 9,30am; main ser vices, I lam and 6.30pm; mid-week lunchtime service, Thursday, 1.05-1.35pm. Plus midweek training in Christian ministry, student groups. Sunvorld."

day school and crecke, fellowship
in many ways, the present groups and groups for new Christians.

All Souls Langham Place, 2 All Souls Place, London W1 3 DB (071-580 3522).

RECTOR: Prebendary Richard Bewes. SERMON: Preached by curate, Simon Parke. Hilarious but spiritual.★★+ ARCHITECTURE: Gothic and classical, vivid impression of

gold and light.*** MUSIC: Popular classical with old and modern, good if you like singing. * * * LITURGY: Basic.*

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Tea, coffee and biscuits plus newcomers' desk. Long queues, but worth the wait.*** * stars are awarded up to a maximum of five

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of humour, friendshib. marriage. Reply to Box No 0576. or numers: Included to the country of the country o straty to that No 0368

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WHAT TO WEAR

Ruffling male feathers

Men have always dressed to kill at weekends in dull camouflage colours.

Robin Young says it's time to add brilliance to the winter plumage

or winter weekends the British male has always dressed to kill. That is why he creeps around the countryside, hedgerows and riverbanks in a bogstandard dingy camouflage that looks as if it has been chosen to match the overcast skies, the dank undergrowth and the mud.

Weekends were the time for sports jackets, and the sports were blood sports, so the trick required of the jackets was not to stand out, but to meld. Hence tweeds, and colours that have traditionally been chosen with a view to avoiding forewarning the foxes, alerting the game and, above all, frightening the horses. The precept for men's attire came to resemble the first rule for women's clothing which, as everyone should know, since P.J. O'Rourke has been kind enough to tell us, is: "Never wear anything that panics the cat."

No wonder, then, that those who have set the fashion for country and leisurewear have insisted on clothes in deadly "natural" colours — tweedy browns, rainy greys and rusty russets. Splashes of colour have been confined to tokenism: a pair of red braces here, a tie that blinds there. The Duke of



notoriety simply because he insisted on wearing canary-yellow socks.

For the most part Britons have been content to dress in dreary, dull conformity as though they lived in permarebuke (ashioned by Daisy Ashford in The Young Visiters: "You look rather rash my dear your colors don't quite match your face."

Now, though, that leisure pursuits are more often trivial than fatal, surely we menfolk can afford to brighten our-selves up a bit? A nation that has come to think of the robin and the blue tit as colourful birds needs to be reminded that the wider world also has macaws, rollers and birds of paradise. We could take a cue, perhaps, from the gaudy kingfisher, our one truly brilliant native bird, which compensates with extra speed and professionalism for what he risks by wearing such flashy. dandified colours.

Oscar Wilde said that the only way to atone for being occasionally overdressed is by being always absolutely over-educated. In these wellschooled times of higher education and the national curriculum, and particularly now that we have developed a kinder society less hell-bent on destroying other species, bright colours for menswear should soon become the reliable signature and trademark of intellectual and social

superiority.
This is a hope with which Julian Samengo-Taylor (photographed above), an insurance broker with Johnson and Higgins at Lloyd's, sympathises. "Life is so gloomy anyway. and there is quite enough misery about, without everyone dressing in uniformly dull clothes. We can at least try to look cheerful. Men on the Continent do not shy away from a bit of flamboyance, and neither should we. My new vear resolutions are not to give anything up. and to wear brighter clothes. And if anyone wants to know what I would like for Christmas, I would feel really comfortable in this Ralph Lauren corduroy shirt."

John Parkinson, a photographers' agent, agrees. "I like clothes that are really bright and cheerful. In my work I have got to have a very lively wardrobe of clothes that are smart but casual. There was a time when everything seemed to be in dull, mustard colours. but fashion has moved on from that to more vivid, stronger colours that will stand out. I move in an image-making profession, and am perhaps a bit more affected by what is





going on around me, but I think that even for those in dared in the past.
Victoria Clive, marketing duller professions, bright colours which can make a bold style statement at the weekend or in the evening must be the

coming thing.
"I really like wearing green
suede trousers and bright Gucci shoes, and that is a statement I feel perfectly comfortable with."

Manufacturers, too, are just beginning to believe that there may be a burgeoning market at last for brighter colours in



men's leisurewear. Richard O'Rourke, managing director of Timberland, says: "Traditionally our coats have been in natural colours like tans, greens, rusts and browns, but from now we are going to be trying some very brightly coloured wharf coats, cut like the jackets longshoremen in Boston and New York wore, but in completely different colours bright red, strong royal blue and lime green.

"We hope that in future we will catch the general trend for clothing to be a bit brighter when early spring comes round and the sap gets moving again. We are looking to introduce a bit more vibrancy."

To help achieve that goal, Mr O'Rourke has recruited a new designer, Michael Jackson, coming from Banana Republic and The Gap, who can be expected to put much

stronger emphasis on brighter colours than Timberland ever

factorum for Johnnie Boden, the stockbroker turned mailorder dothes merchant, feels there may be advantages for mail order companies in selling bright menswear. "Rupert Bear trousers have proved to be one of our runaway best-sellers, though when we introduced them they seemed to be the most outrageous thing we had in the catalogue. Johnnie's reaction was 'must have that' as soon as he saw the swatch. though the girls in the office. including me, were much more dubious.

"The trousers' success has really proved a point. It might be easier for us to sell bright clothes through a catalogue than it would be in a store. because men don't have to go through the business of choos-ing them and trying them on in public. If they do not like them, whether it's because they are too bright or not bright enough, they can simply send them back. There is nothing to be embarrassed about."

James Mullen, director of shirtmakers Thomas Pink, says: "We are introducing stronger colours. Shirtmakers traditionally used colours in bold, bright stripes. Now we are trying more interesting colours in plain, self-coloured shirts, and using strong colours in fine checks. Men are generally becoming more confident about wearing something that is unusual and striking, so even the jeans manufacturers are turning out denims in bright colours.

Julian (left) wears purple Soviet jeans, £55, available at Way In, Harrods, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Dark blue polo neck, £25, and blue gingham shirt, 642, both Thomas Pink, 35 Dover St. W1, and London branches. Red jacket, £135, Timberland,

72 New Bond Street, WI. John wears green suede users, £295, Paul Smith, 41-44 Florei Street, Landon WC2. Red rugby shirt, £45. Street, London SW3 and sweater, £40, Racing Green (for catalogue phone 0789 200244). Blue suade shoes, E195, Gucci, 32-33 Old Bond



Julian (left) wears yellow check trousers, £65, and yellow check hat, £26; both at Johnnie Boden (for free catalogue, call 071-608 3230). Red polo skirt, £25, Thomas Pink (as thove). Green sweater, Racing Green (as above), Red

docksiders, £69.99, Russell & Bromley, available from March in selected branches (071-629 6903). James (centre) mears red rugby shirt, £45, Hackett (as above). Yellow jumper, £40, Racing Green (as above). Red Soviet jeans, £55. available from Way In las

above). Green jacket, £135, Timberland (as above). John (right) wears red gingham shirt. £42, Thomas Pink (as above). Aubergine cardigan, £185, Marion Foale 15 Hinde Street, London WI. Red jacket, £135, Timberland (as above). Green jeans, E34,99, Next branden (enquiries, 0533 490321). Yellow suede shoes, £195;



jumper, £39.99, Next branche aistopat with Jacobite or ancient Campbell

tartan lining, £45, Johnnie Boden (as above). Blue jeans, £37.99, Pape (for stockists, 081-459 1277). Red suede thoes. £195, Gucci (as above). Julian wears pale blue Pepe eans, £37.99. Red cord shirt, £85, from Ralph Lauren, 143 New Bond Street, London W1. Green jumper, £40, Racing Green (as above). Red ocksiders, E69.99, Russell & Browley (as above).

Photography John Hudson Styling Victoria Pyman

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voice, if not the meteorologically correct decor, of Alaska comes to Britain. From The Trossachs to the Forest of Dean, from Norfolk to Northumberland, the Forestry Commission's normally dreary conifers will echo to such ancient and evocative calls of the Frozen North, and of an entire library of Holly-wood eskimo movies, as "gee' "haw" and "hike" (but not

Only 14 years after the first competitive race was held in Britain, one of our youngest amateur sports graduates to its first national competition. A six-race series for the National Husky Racing Championships starts today in Thefford, Norfolk, and will swing through the forests to the decider at Kielder, Northumberland, in iate February.

Cynics may raise an incredulous eyebrow, but in husky racing "amateur" means precisely that. Fit, keen dogs rattle and slurp their three-wheeled rigs - or if it snows, pad along with real swooshing sleds around a steep, winding forest track at an average 17mph, and come home in times only a stopwatch can prise apart. (Two years ago, in the Kielder rally, just four seconds separated the first and second teams after two days and 28 miles of racing).

But there are no champagne showers at the award ceremony - inappropriate, anyway. as the event is sponsored by the Canadian lager company.

Laban. It is cups and medals
only for the winners, and for



the dogs a few bicuits and a lot of praise. "Wethought long and hard abot prizes, but decided the weitre of the dogs comes first," sas Ross Goldie, committee mober of the championship reganisers, the British Sled Dy Racing Association (BS DR). "If there was cash at ctake popula might be cash at stake, copie might be tempted to pus their dogs to hard. So far whaven't need to conduct a sigle drugs test. Like the shepdog, the Siberian husky i bred for a

purpose: the ong haul over frozen wastes So do not even consider it as, family pet with which to restze Nanook of the North in theocal park. "You can't take tem for walks: huskies haveno road sense." says Mr Goke, an engineer in the oil industy. Mr Goldie and his wife has seven huskies. which they md devotedly be-hind a 7ft Igh fence, underpinned by encrete blocks, in their garderin a village near Glasgow, "Ithey can't get over they will trye dig under. They are great ecape artists, and inveterate underers," he says. 1

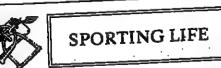
Potential the owner of sessingle dog on compete if he of she can fin a partner to take part in ones the many winter

gymkhanavents. There as classes for two.



Best friends: musher Chris Anderson from Peterhead competing in the Kielder Forest





inner by a cold nose

Gareth Huw Davies on the first national husky racing championship

ir and six dogs. A fit husky in pull up to two and a half nes its own weight (the trage dog weighs 55lb). A um of two dogs can easily pull 1312-stone Mr Goldie on filat, but requires more ausher input (although aush" is hardly used these

days, the driver is known as the musher, also corrupted from the French "marcher"). "That means you come to the bottom of a hill, jump off and leg it. Six dogs can pull a quarter of a tonne, so even uphill you stay on and just give the odd scoot." If it snows the mushers

Husky fact box

Members: There are about 3.000 huskies in Britain.

Between 750 and 1.000 are regularly worked and raced with sleds or rigs. The Kennel Club, 1 Clarges Street, London W 1Y 8AB (071-629 5828) provides an information pack.

Equipment: Relatively inexpensive, compared to motorised sports. A wheeled rig can cost between £300 and £500. Add on the cost of harnesses and two lines. A husty puppy costs about £250: puppies from the best racing lines from £400. Feed costs are £850: puppies a week for a good racing dog.

The scason: Events and gymkhanas are held between mid-October and mid-March. Details from the Siberian Husky Club of Great Britain (whose secretary is Penny Evans) at The Old Post Office, 3 High Street, Lamport, Northants NN6 9HB (0601 2828). The club can provide names of breeders.

40201). The club can provide names of preceers.
 4 Venues: Everybody is welcome at this winter's SSDRA championships, where top husky racers are easer to popularise thampionships, where top husky racers are easer to popularise their sport. Venues are: Brandon, Suffolk (Dec 19,20). Wye their sport. Venues are: Brandon, Suffolk (Dec 19,20). Thetford. Valley, Gwent (Jan 2.3), Aberfoyle, Scotland (Jan 8.10), Thetford. Valley, Gwent (Jan 2.3), Aberfoyle, Scotland (Feb 20,21) and Kielder.
 Norfolk (Feb 6,7). Culbin, Scotland (Feb 20,21) and Kielder.
 Northumberland (Feb 27,28). Confact Ross Goldie (0360 310762) or Simon Luxmore (0600 860185).

scurry like so many fulfilled Citizen Kanes for their sleds. still made in white ash and hickory, although now with synthetic composite runners the only real break in a 4,000year-old tradition. But most winters the Gulf Stream pre-

vails and they race three-wheeled rigs, which at least offer some elementary steering and eight miles. and breaking to curb the dogs runaway downhill enthusiasm.

All drivers use the same commands, directed by name to a specific dog. "Gee" means turn right: "how more forward. bottom ten. A good musher "hike" signifies move forward. The lead dog tends to be the fastest and the brightest, with the nous to keep his line tight. so maintaining maximum pull, and to cope with five big strong dogs behind him. If he makes a mistake, they all it, all gone. You never catch up.

follow him. For the top 100 or so championship contenders. training begins in the summer. often at alarmingly early hours often at alarmingly early hours

— a husky is after all a fur coat
on legs, best exerted in the cool.
By winter, training can build
up to four days a week. By race
day the dogs positively fly with
the 35lb of the rig, or the 20lb
of the cled and a musher of the sled, and a musher behind them. Downhill they can reach speeds of 25mph.

The dogs receive the dietary The dogs receive the dietary cossetting of top athletes, but no racer will tell you what goes into the bowl. Among the ingredients in a feed with a 35 per cent protein and 25 per cent fat content that the Goldies prepare are minced raw steak, tripe and chicken—"easily directible—all good "easily digestible - all good

power stuff". The BSDRA events take place over two days. Courses are usually raced twice. The longest is the 14-mile Kielder course, usually the best bet for snow — sled times are considerably faster than rigs. Snowfree courses are between six

The races are time trials, so no mass start with pandemonium on the first corner. The fastest teams depart first at two or three-minute intervals. Even then there is a lot of overtaking - the top ten teams are roughly twice as fast as the

knows how to pace his dogs. Ross Goldie relives the disappointment of the championship-sinking unscheduled stop. "A line goes slack, a dog gets its back leg over it, and you have to go back to sort it out. That's

Just like motor racing." "But," says Simon Luxmore, a former Bath rugby player who has been racing huskies for more than ten years. "it doesn't matter how aggressive or ambitious you are. In the end it's all down to the dogs, their breeding, nutrition, training and their attitude. And as soon as the race is finished, whether you won, lost or drew,



CHRISTMAS BREAKS



A nibble at the Big Apple

isitors to New York can become obsessed with V the city's cabs and cab drivers unless they are very careful. Although the familiar bulbous version of the yellow cab is now history, that most obvious form of transport in the city tends to be one of the most vivid memories after a

long weekend there.

My wife, and I and two friends chose New York for a short but frantic holiday weekend to celebrate her birthday. For the novice visitor to New York, the cab from the airport is the first chance to sample the atmosphere of the city. Thereafter, the cab driver is your almost constant companion, so cheap and available is he. Our first driver, Mussett Butler, uttered two words during the 30-minute drive to Manhattan, earning a \$32 fare plus a \$4 tip for a "yup" and "oke". He was we were assured later,

ositively talkative.

If we were expecting to enjoy a view of the famous skyline in the late afternoon on the drive from the airport, we were certainly disappointed. The foul weather that had delayed our flight for almost two hours put paid to that, and raised the prospect of a weekend spent in

a misty drizzle.
Of many similar offers, we chose the American Airlines package of three nights, leaving London at lunchtime on Thursday, returning from Kennedy airport on Sunday night, largely for the location of the hotel. The Dorset is at 30 West 54th Street, near Fifth Avenue and close to Central Park, the Rockefeller Centre and the Museum of Modern Art. A comfortable, venerable hotel with agonisingly slow lifts, it was more than adequate for tourists who intended to eyeball until they dropped.

On the first night, we went for a meal at Planet Hollywood. This was only a five-minute walk away and, for an eatery crammed with movie memorabilia and inspired by film stars, surprisingly un-crowded. The novelty of consuming a burger and hand-cut fries under the gaze of a Spielberg gremlin on one side and a Star Wars robot on the other wore off remarkably quickly. Two starters, four bur-

gers and eight beers cost \$80. Day two and some serious visiting of famous places. We

John Wellman spends a high-speed weekend discovering Manhattan



Winter wonderland: skaters in New York's Central Park

took a splendid walk down Fifth Avenue on a glorious morning to the Empire State

Four breakfasts for \$16 in The Big Apple restaurant on the ground floor of the Empire State made us think that a similarly placed restaurant in London would require a flexible friend for payment.

ueuing for the Empire State building was quick and well organised. Entry was \$3.50 each, followed by a smooth trip in a lift to the eighty-sixth floor, where we enjoyed a magnificent, chilly view over Manhattan from 1,050ft. Then up in the lift to the glassed-in observation room at 1,250ft. Everyone seems to have a story about the Empire State building. It even survived a collision with an off-

course US bomber during the second world war. One of the most remarkable suicide stories concerns a woman who flung herself from the eightieth floor, only to be blown back in

through a fifty-sixth-floor win-

dow by a freak gust of wind. The pace honed up now. Cabs were abandoned just for the morning and we took the subway to South Ferry for a trip on the Staten Island Ferry. The bullet-proof glass of the ticket booth was a reminder not to relax completely.

The ferry terminus was drab. smelly and reminiscent of a Midlands bus depot, but the trip across the Hudson river and back was spectacular. It was also the best value of the weekend, as it proved impossible to find out where to pay the 50 cents for the round trip. Around the corner from the

ferry terminal is Pier 17, a

newish development with shops and a fine Irish bar with a gorgeous view of the Brook-lyn Bridge. Also nearby is Fulton Street, with its old shops and chaotic fish restaurant, where lobster, shrimp and swordfish are served up in fast-food style.

Back to the hotel via the Museum of Modern An. where the queue for the Matisse exhibition stretched into the distance and we decided reluctantly not to join it.

A walk around a buzzing Greenwich village in the evening led eventually to the Peculiar Bar. with English-style pumped bitter and raw, beautifully sung blues from a Jimi Hendrix lookalike, who blossomed swiftly from bar drunk to artiste when the microphone became free.

Supper was in the Arleechino restaurant in nearby Bleecker Street at the recommendation of a fat mounted policeman enjoying a horseback cappucino delivered by one of the waiters.

Time was starting to run out now. Saturday was for shopping. Macy's was packed and hectic with festive bunting, a Santa Claus on every corner and its front door Christmas trees firmly chained to their earth-filled pots, Only for the dedicated bargain hunter.

The evening brought yet another cab ride, this time to the twin towers of the World Trade Centre, where for just \$4 a head you can sit in the bar by the picture windows on the 107th floor and watch nighttime New York go about its

business as you sip your drink. Sunday, the last day. The planned walk in Central Park had to be replaced by a pricey horse-and-trap ride — \$34 for just 20 minutes — after I tore a leg muscle on the steps of the Rockefeller Plaza.

As I was wheelchaired to the aeroplane at Kennedy airport, I was struck by the amazing energy of the city, and how three and a half days in Manhattan is hardly long enough to scratch the surface. It calls for another forzy.

• The author took an American Airlines winter weekend break. Scheduled service from Heathrow or Manchester to John F. Kennedy airpon. E369 per person. Includ-ing return flights. three nights in hotel (no breakfast) and all taxes.

The Times / Hoverspeed money-saving cross-Channel offer

France and back at half price

☐ Up to five passengers

□ No limit on size of car

☐ Plus savings on other trips next summer

Thinking about taking a short-break motoring holiday in France next year? Well, here's how you can start planning your journey with a big saving on the cross-Channel cost.

The Times, in association with Hoverspeed, is offering readers a special 5-day Motoring Return for car (irrespective of size) and up to five passengers at half price on both the Dover-Calais and the Folkestone-Boudogne routes.

The 5-day Motoring Return should give you plenty of scope for exploring the best of northern France - Le Touquet and its beaches, the countrside around St Omer, Arras and Amiens and, of course, Paris. Or, from Calais, you could drive into Belgium and Holland. The choice and the saving are yours.

● The cost: Dover-Calais return by hovercraft, only £47.50 (normal price £95). Folkestone-Boulogne return by SeaCat, only £61. (normally £122).

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

I To qualify for this offer, all bookings should be made using the form printed in *The Times* and by postal application only. Under the terms of The

Times/Hoverspeed offer, you are entitled to a 50 per cent discount on a five day motoring return for a car and up to five passengers from Folkestone to Boulogne or Dover to Calais from January 4 to March 25 1993, but excluding the period

February 12-21. 3 All bookings are subject to the carrier's booking conditions — copies available on-request — and are subject to availability.

4 The half-price offer applies to five-day motoring returns only.

and excludes Same Day, 3-Day or Stadard returns. 5 As the fares offered are heavily

both routes: from January 4

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take up either of these money-saving offers will also qualify for a 10 per cent

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the summer months.

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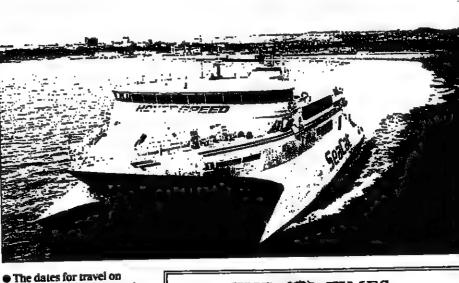
to March 25 next

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discounted, we regret we cannot accept credit card bookings. 6 This offer also entitles readers to a 10 per cent discount on a standard return booking during the summer period with Hover-

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Nicole Swengley explores the high street for some useful tips for last-minute Christmas shoppers



eaving Christmas shopping to the last moment need not invoke a panie attack. Our rece this week yielded plenty of tasteful and imaginative gifts at resemble prices. reasonable prices from high-street stores. Alternatively, invest in a fistful of gift vouchers. Apart from obvious sources like Boots, Our Price and Marks & Spencer, they can be bought at Toys 'R' Us, Oddbins, Threshers, Tesco. Sainsbury's, B&Q, Woolworth. Thomas Cook and Beefeater restaurants and pubs, usually in



Animal magic painted wooden pig mug-rack, £12.99 from larger Marks & Spencer stores.

This red and black Mickey Mouse children's party waistcoat, suitable for children from 18 months to two years old, is available for £8.99 from British Homes Stores nationwide.





Snoopy hair dryer by Clairol, £19.99 from House of Fraser stores nationwide, blow-dries through the nose for pedigree styling.

from a selection of fruity boxes at W.H. Smith stores nationwide, could be filled with W.H. Smith gift vouchers costing £1, £2, £5, £10 or £20.

Pear-shaped secret box, £4.99

apothecary bottles than at Boots the Chemist? Chunky dark blue bottles contain shampoo, £1.99, muscle rub, £2.99, or aftershave balm,

£2.75. From a selection for men at larger Boots stores.



Shape, Rattle and Roll sorter, £3.99, from the Brighter Kids range of pre-school toys designed by Sebastian Conran, is suitable for children over three months and available from larger Tesco stores

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Thankless tasks ahead

hristmas thank you letters? No sweat. Peter them out on his Amstrad word processor in under 30 minutes. "I work out a general text like 'Dear So and So, thank you for my present. I liked it. And I use it a bit. Thank you again. Bye.' Then I simply insert a different name at the

top of each text and that is it." Peter admits - without a hint of shame — that it reduces his letter-writing time "tremendously". He has not yet committed the social faux pas of inserting the wrong name into the right envelope, which would surely alert the recipient to this mass market exercise.

"I carefully out the letter into the envelope as soon as I print it out to make sure this doesn't happen. Yes, I know older people would rather have a handwritten note (although nobody has actually com-plained so far). But it would take me ages to get through a dozen or so."

Peter cottoned on to the joys of high-technology letter writing two years ago when his mother. Linda Cracknell, a primary school teacher, bought the Amstrad

"When the children were small, I wrote the text in pencil and they would go over it."
Mrs Cracknell says. "But it's
purgatory for my son to sit
down and write anything. It was Peter's idea to use the word processor and although I have my reservations about it. it's better than not writing a letter at all."

In fact, the traditional courtesy of sending a note is imperative in the Cracknell household. "The deadline is the end of the holidays and I threaten not to feed Peter if he hasn't done it by then. I have occasionally had to vet the text: one of his letters read Thank you for the book. I have two copies already'," she says.

Pen-pushers might agree with Mrs Cracknell's fear that we let boys off too lightly. Because they're itching to play with that new football, we back down." Her daughter Alison, nine, could cop out with the family Amstrad but loyally sticks to Basildon Bond and fountain pen.

"I like writing and it seems politer. Sometimes my mum tells me what to write or else I think of something like Thank you for my present. I hope you had a nice holiday. I usually do all the letters on one day - then you don't have to worry about them again. And How do you make children write thank you letters? Sufferers and

their parents offer some advice

I enjoy drawing pictures of the presents I've been sent, round the margins. When I'm grown up. I'll certainly make my children do the same."

Such piety would horrify the Bevan family from London, whose two children, Nicola (14) and David (8), rarely write thank you missives -- with the blessing of their mother. Anne Bevan, a lecturer in material sciences.

come from someone else with the same surname. I don't really enjoy writing letters, and I don't think the older generation expects it nowadays."

The Staton-Bevans from Hampshire, relatives of the Bevans above, harbour no resentment at this laissez-faire policy, although they expect better from their own off-spring. "I want the children to be grateful for what they've

THANKS FOR THE A. PRESENT B.HOLIDAY TICK APPROP. BOX

"A laborious letter takes the pleasure out of the present," Mrs Bevan says. "Instead, they might ring up someone who sent them a present in the post — or else the/II just say thank you at the time they're given something.

"Although I receive letters from my nephew and niece. I always tell a child I don't expect a thank you letter back hecause I don't want to pressurise them. The only exception is that I do make my daughter write to her French penfriend's mother after she's been there to stay. But it takes ages to get Nicola to write. Only today, after clearing out her room, I found the letter she wrote back in April but forgot to post. So we're send-ing it off now along with a Christmas card."

Nicola herself seems frighteningly assured of her nontraditionalist stance. "A phone call is perfectly adequate, al-though I did once make a mistake and thanked a relative verbally for a present she'd sent whereas it was still in the post. The gift had actually

received and not take it for granted," says Lynda Staton-Bevans, mother of Fiona, 14 and Simon, 13. "I make them write a list of who gave what when they receive something. so they can actually name the object in their letter. Then they might say what they're going to do with it and what they've

been doing over the holidays."
Punctuality is one key to such success; the "get-it-allover-in-one-day" school of thought is another. "We usualdo them the day after Boxing day," Simon says. "I save it for when there isn't anything interesting on tele-vision. Yes, it is a chore and I have to think hard about what to write. I might do a rough copy and then write out variations in neat. I try to be tidy luckily I've got an ink eradica-tor. I'm definitely pleased to get them finished but I'll still make my own children write letters. It gives them a good

His sister Fiona seeks inspiration from Radio I while sitting in her bedroom and doodling in search of some-

reputation!"

thing to write. "I'll aim for a page if they're lucky. And yes, there are times when I don't even enjoyed the present. But I still do it out of courtesy."

Courtesy, insists David Williamson from Debrett's, dictates that all well-bred children pick up their pens after Boxing day even if mother does have to dictate the wording over their shoulders. "I've had some quaint giveaway adult phrases from my five godernildren, such as I shall think of you when I use it'." Such endearing notes end up on the recipient's kitchen noticeboard until the following Christmas.

Age is no barrier. Karen Hunt, mother of Charlotte, two, and Francine, nearly one, writes from her Buckinghamshire cottage on behalf of her daughters as though she is them (for example, "I love playing with the doll"). "Then I help Charlotte write her initial 'C' afterwards, It's also good handwriting practice."

ofter options for the younger age group in-clude the dreaded (and often expensive) printed Thank you" notelets which one of my godchildren incvitably sends me every Christmas.
My own offspring would love
to do the same, but courtesy
and penny-pinching forbid them - much more imaginative for a small child to stencil his own "Thank you" motif and embellish it with glitter and paint.

Top marks too to Joanna Edges. 9, of Guildford, who perseveres with her letters despite having dyslexía. "She'll sit at the dining room table and ask me how to spell certain words," says her mother, Anita Edges. "Sometimes I'll leave her mistakes in -- my mother prefers this because then she knows Jounna has written it herself. I don't mind phone calls from other children but I do like some acknowledgement for that huge number of presents I fork out for every year."

Joanna herself admits to getting "bored sometimes especially if I don't know what to write. It helps if the present was really good. Last year, Granny gave me a super camera. I wrote that I'd use it for my holiday. It's important to write letters because the people who get them are pleased But the best part is going to the post box because then I've got rid of them."

JANE BIDDER

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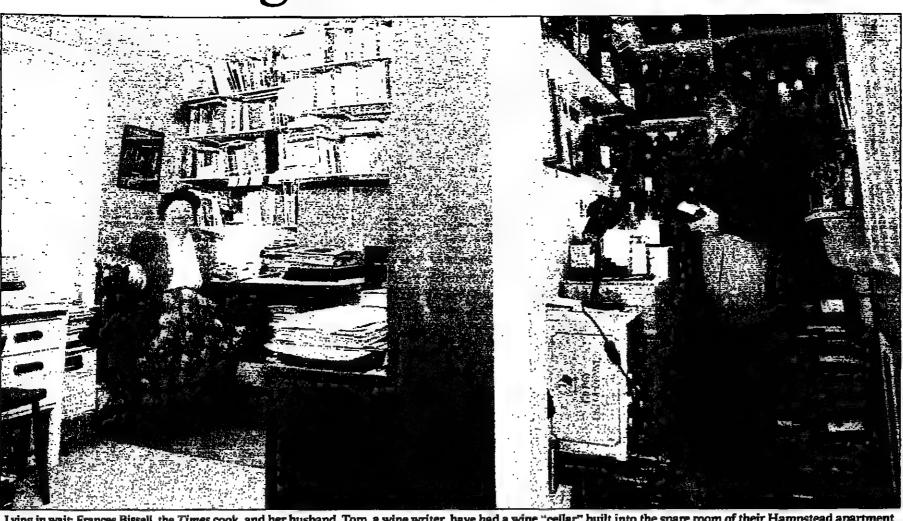
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Town guide to best cellars



Lying in wait: Frances Bissell, the Times cook, and her husband, Tom, a wine writer, have had a wine "cellar" built into the spare room of their Hampstead apartment

he cubbyholes and small antercoms of Georgian and Victorian houses often provide a valuable resource missing from many modern houses and converted flats vital storage space. Not that the lack of purpose-built cupboards and cellars stops people accumulating things: they just need greater

A flamboyant wine writer I once visited in his top-floor north London flat had reduced his staircase to a single narrow pathway with cases stacked on either side. Visitors had to pick their way between the premiers crus and supermarket best buys. I never did find out what happened to him when he came home after a tasting too many.

Improvising a wine cellar is a challenge for people living without storage, and others' solutions can often provide inspiration. Ralph Brown, who imports wine from Italy, has found an open-plan answer. He lives with his wife, two children and about 2,000 bottles on the fourth floor of a mansion block in South Kensington.

The building was built in 1880. and there are coal holes, but they tend to be damp, which is no good for the labels or the corks," Mr reliable either. Hiring storage space is expensive, so eventually I decided to use the corridor."

Kay Marles discovers several imaginative ways of laying down a wine collection if your house or flat has no cellar

against a structural wall, where he has installed a series of 6ft-high professional wine racks. "The important thing is that wine should stay at a fairly steady temperature." he says. "As there is no central heating in the flat, it is easy to keen the corridor from fluctuating wildly between hot and cold. The lack of light is also an advantage."

Weight is not a problem because the bottles are distributed evenly along the length of the wall; the racks are wedged at the front and tilted back. His children, aged four and two, leave well alone. "They know not to touch the bottles on threat of death," Mr Brown says, "and we have had no mishaps yet."

Frances Bissell, the Times cook, has had a wine cellar built into the spare room of her north London flat, which occupies the upper two floors of a Victorian terrace house. Her husband, Tom, a wine writer, has been buying at auction and from merchants for the past 20 years, but their preferred lifestyle offers no easy option for storing the stuff. "We like to live with a lot of friend. Pete Smart, a lute and furniture maker, offered to build a store for us," she savs.

Mr Smart built a double wall across one third of the spare room. away from all radiators and windows. He filled the 3in cavity with insulating material, to keep the termierature as constant as possible, and built eight new bins. With shelves above the door and along the new wall, the "cellar" can house up to 1,200 bottles.

"He calculated that 1,200 bottles weigh one ton," Mr Bissell says, "and decided that would be the limit for a second-floor flat."

ere again, the weight problem has been solved by distributing around the space and using the party wall with the house next door as the main load-bearing wall.

"It's an excellent solution," Mrs Bissell says. "The rest of the room is a study furnished with desks and a couch. We don't believe we've devalued the flat: our 'cellar' could be an excellent dark-room or storage space, or could even be dismantled if need be."

Hilary Adams, a professional Georgian house in east London and has been collecting wine for three or four years, since being

definitely be a factor when we move house. I'm sure we couldn't manage without a cellar now.' given membership of the Wine Rosemary George, Master of Society as a wedding present. She has converted two former coal Wine and a writer, also used a coal bunker in her early imbibing days in Pimlico, south London. Hers cellars, reached through a manhole had doubled as a wartime air-raid in the pavement, into storage space

fantastic bit of extra space.

have put in wine racks. We can't

use metal racks because it is slightly

damp down there, so we use pine,

which we have had treated. We

could have it tanked - similar to

having a damp-proof course put in

we haven't felt the need.

but that is expensive, and so far

"The temperature never rises,

even in the summer. We had

problems with labels getting damp and becoming illegible, so we

bought plastic labels to hang on the

of wine. "It's fun," she says, "just to nip down to the cellar for a bottle

What Ms Adams particularly

for wine and tools. "They didn't appear attractive features at all When she moved, she and her husband bought a turn-of-the-cenwhen we were buying the house," tury house in west London. Every house in the road had a cellar. "If she says. "But now they are a "Although the wine cellar is you've been used to it, it is almost under the pavement in front of the impossible to do without a wine cellar," she says. She took the racks house, we can get into it from the basement. The previous owners cleaned and dried it out and we from her coal bunker, and her husband had some bins built out of

brick and Welsh slate.

able to stack them away and not

worry about them. And it will

'Abrupt changes in temperature are serious but rare," she says. She has about 5,000 bottles, which she sorts on wet Sunday afternoons. "We put yellow stickers on bottles we should drink sooner rather than later," she says. "Otherwise I tend to have an idea turking in my mind of what's there. Sometimes one

comes across nice surprises." Storage in country houses is rarely such a problem; but even in cities, in top-floor flats and basements, and in old houses especially. likes about her makeshift cellar is there are ways of storing wine that quality without the need to resort to the expensive huxury of storing at because it's there. It is nice to be your local wine merchant.

High hopes of a lowly cattle shed

R edundant French farm buildings can be converted into attractive homes. Many such properties have masses of character and good potential, with larger than average rooms and lots of original features. Often, they have no near neighbours, apart from the farmhouse itself, and

enjoy a secluded rural setting. The disadvantages include the close proximity of a working farmyard, which hardly makes for a page full attendance to the control of the cont peaceful atmosphere. Also, the extent of the renovation work can be considerable, and you could end up spending more than you bar-Planning permission — permis de construire — is needed for the

conversion of independent farm

buildings (a barn that adjoins a house and shares the same roof is considered part of the house). Septic tanks also need permission. The planning application must be to the local town hall, which will supply the appropriate forms. If the conversion complies with all the rules, including local design regulations, approval will be granted

within two months. Do not be tempted to ignore the rules — even if some locals do. You run the risk of having to demolish all you have built. Also, do not overspend on the conversion. Restoration costs are high and might not be recouped on resale. It might be wiser to buy a farm building that has already been modernised, at least in part. The initial cost would be higher, but there would be less to spend later on. In the present

gains to be had. Situated in a finy rural hamlet, near the village of Jumilhac-le-Grand in northeast Dordogne, this converted stable and barn, com-

depressed market there are bar-



Buyer's France DORDOGNE

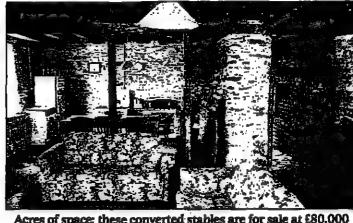
plete with a swimming pool and enough land to graze a few horses, is for sale at FFr650,000 (about £80,000). The nearest airport is

Limoges, 40 minutes' drive away.
The old périgordine stone-built
animal shelter has been converted into a home, with exposed stone walls, oak-beamed ceilings and open fireplaces. It has a large openplan living room, with a fitted corner kitchen area, four bedrooms and two bathrooms, plus an attached barn for renovation. It has lovely views and comes with one and a half acres of lawn, meadow and fruit trees.

For less than half that price — FFY250,000 — you can buy an old stone stable, partially converted, with half an acre of garden bordered by a stream, in the Charente Maritime, not far from the old market town of Pons and a river with good fishing.

Roof, floors and plumbing are new, but further restoration is needed, including proper sanitation. The living room has beamed ceilings and a huge open fireplace, and a large room above is suitable for conversion to bedrooms and betwoom.

CHERYL TAYLOR • UK agent: The French Property Shop, Wadhurst Road, Mark Cross, East Sussex (0892 852449).



Acres of space: these converted stables are for sale at £80,000

COURSES

A PRACTICAL course for wouldbe French property owners has been organised by the British agent Latitudes (14 Pipers Green Lane, Edgware, HAS 8DG: 081-958 5485) in association with French agent Vialex International, based in Lot et Garonne.

The four-day residential course to be held at the Château de L'Hoste in St Beauzeil, an hour

trom Toulouse - covers such topics as conveyancing, legal and financial matters. There are also visits to properties for sale, renovation projects and the town hall, plus on-site sessions with local builders and architects.

The next course, on January 15-18, costs FFr2,500 (about £300), or FFr4,900 for a couple, for full from Toulouse airport. A special offer for Times readers gives FFr250 off the normal price.

Caroline Morse views a grand

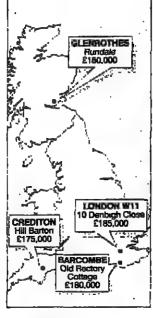
Scottish residence, Devon

farmhouse.

Sussex home

and London mews cottage

FOR SALE about £180,000





Scotland: Rundale, Windygates, nr Glenrothes. Detached stone-built residence in 5½ acres with stabling. Five bedrooms, bathroom, three reception rooms, kitchen/dining room, utility room. About £150,000 (GA Property, 0592 759653).



London: 10 Denbigh Close, W11. Cottage at end of cobbled mews. Three bedrooms, two bathrooms (one en suite), two reception rooms and kitchen. Roof in need of repair. Parking facilities. About £185.000 (Knight Frank & Rutley, 071-938 4311).



Sussex: Old Rectory Cottage, Barcombe, nr Lewes. Detached residence in half an acre. Three bedrooms, bathroom, cloakroom/shower room, two reception rooms, sun-room and utility room. About £180,000 (Strutt & Parker, 0273 475411).



Devon: Hill Barton, nr Crediton. Detached Victorian farmhouse in 2 acres with self-contained, two-bedroom annexe. Four bedrooms, bathroom, two receptions and kitchen. Outbuildings include summerhouse and stabling. About £175.000 (Stags, 0884 256331).

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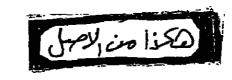
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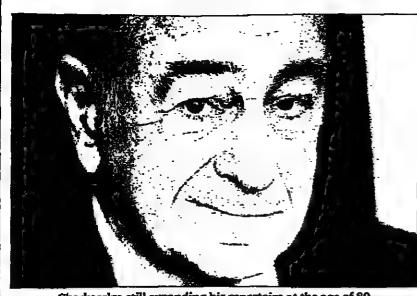
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Musical Peter Pans capture the magic of childhood



Cherkassky: still expanding his repertoire at the age of 80

wo Peter Pan musicians have surfaced on CD for Christmas: the 25-year-old Olii Musiomea and the 80-year-old Shura Cherkassky, each one a real puer eternus of the piano. Mustonen looks east, as he did in his first recording of Shostakovich and Alkan. to the fantasy of Balakirev. Tchaikovsky and Mussorgsky (Decca 436 255-2). In his nimble fingers, Balakirev's Islame becomes a jewelled fairytale of the orient, its echoes of Caucasian dance and instruments ringing out to the skittish

Tchaikovsky's Children's Album was really written for children to play. The sudden distraction, the momentary di-version, and the inspiration of the passing second are all there in the sweet, gawky waltz, the shaft of sunlight that is the "Kamarinskaya" dance, the sudden descent at the end of the "Song of the Lark". Like a child with a new set of

Hilary Finch enjoys the work of two pianists who share the same youthful approach to music

crayins, he loves to experiment with the different resonating quali-ties of the piano; too.

The sharp, brisk attack which etches out the frost patterns of "Winter morning" is matched by the echoing reverberations of

the "Peasant playing an accordion".

The witch Baba Yaga, hurting through the sky, returns in more threat-thing guise in Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Kehibitian, which Mustonen sees wery much as a grown-up storybook. His imagination is as fleet as his fingers. Whimsy and the impredictable collide in a picture of the Tuileness as poignant as it is fristy, in a Limoges marketplace where hard, percussive playing recreates the clatter of clogs on cobbles as much as the peasant women. The Promenade itself is a progressive mirror of

responses. By the time Kiev's great gate is reached, the full wonder of the entire journey is sensed in the shining calm of

eightieth birthday in a live Carnegie Hall recital a year ago, (Decca 433 654-2) gives us an old, wise child's eye view of Bach-Busoni, Schumann and Chopin. As the late Peter Wadland, who produced this record, reminds us, there is very little Bach or Busoni, and a lot of Cherkassky" in this mighty Chaconne. Cherkassky frequently reverses the indicated dynamics and plays, audaclously, in different tempos. His Symphonic Etudes, too, are totally idiosyncratic the glinting right-hand figuration of one dancing study becomes a mincing

of one dancing study becomes a mincing marcato, only to numble, helter-skelter, into an Agitato of true virtuosity.

Cherkassky had only just learnt the Ives Three-page Sonata which he played as a tribute to his American audience, reveiling in the extraordinary layers of recession, as if playing two pianos, one of

them offstage.

As the evening hots up, Cherkassky nurns to the "Kaleidoscope" of his teacher Josef Hofmann, and then to his favourite Pabst paraphrase of themes from Eugene Onegin. Here, he becomes each character in turn, at the same time as being a sometimes outrageously mischievous director. He ends with Morton Gould's "Boogie-Woogie Ende": as he apparently said at the time. "Isn't it wonderful that at my age I can still do

THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale reviews the stage adaptation of an Oscar-winning shocker

Murderous muse with a talent to abuse

ing years reading Dickens, Dickens and yet more Dickens to a maniac bibliophile in the inaccessible heart of the South American Stephen King's male Scheherazade, he had it easy. The punishment King hands out to Paul Sheldon, his novelistprotagonist, is to write chapter after chapter of rapturous tosh for a fan who, if he falters or raises his sights from low to middlebrow, is all too likely to amputate the loot she has not already chopped off.

What is King offering us here? The self-flagellating nightmare of a popular writer who feels he has not done himself artistic justice? Maybe. A self-pitying and, given King's commercial success, somewhat disingenuous complaint about the tyranny of philistine taste? Probably. A warning about the dangers of pandering to people's dreams in the celebrity-mad United helm's Assassins is just down the road, reminding us of peculiarly American mixture of worship, envy, frustration and rage takes hold of a social inadequate. Sheldon's nemesis can perhaps be seen as a John Wilkes Booth in drag, a

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Criterion

Lee Harvey Oswald with a thing about romantic writers. Or is Misery just a rare example of that half-forgotten genre, grand guignol? That seems a bit more likely and, at least as far as this grumpy critic is concerned, a bit more appealing as Yuletide begins to encroach. Instead of taking the kids to see Father Christ-mas in his department-store grotto, why not sample Shar-on Gless's female alternative, with her Santa cap, her trou-bling gifts, her vindictive kindnesses? The seasonal greetings she offers Sheldon mid-way through the play are surely what some of those fakejolly men would secretly like to ffer the little darlings.

But I digress, or at least jump forward. As anyone will know who has read King's original novel, or seen the film based on it, Sheldon has a bone-splintering car-crash and ends up rescued from a snowdrift by the reclusive nurse, Annie Wilkes. For a Moore's stage adaptation she seems a true Florence Nightingale. But "your greatest fan", as she terms herself, is soon forcing Sheldon to wash down his painkillers with

urine and cleaning fluid, to burn the manuscript of his bold new book because of its "profane" language, and, above all, to rescuscitate Miss Misery, the heroine he has alls in her medicine chest.

blended the baleful and the sentimental to wonderfully grim effect. Gless does not exude quite the same danger. but she is much more than what those who know her only from television must have feared: Cagney minus the pep, the style and the sleek, sveite frame. She does not succeed in convincing us that she is actually the sad and troubled victim of a rotten background, as King and his adaptor presumptuously imply. But with her odd, aphasic silences and big, gormless gurgles and chuckles, her cosy dimplings and sudden resentments, she brings a villainess as near to

life as grand guignol allows. Her Sheldon is Bill Pater at the beginning, when he is seen accepting a literary prize in a voice smug and slimy enough to make at least some of his comeuppance rather satisfying. For most of the rest of the time he has little to do but grown, writhe, graphically lose a foot to Gless's nursing skills and try not to show his growing desperation; but he still manages to be less bland than James Caan in the film. If there is any reason for seeing the play rather than hiring the video, here it is.



Santa's grotty: Bill Paterson and Sharon Gless get into the festive spirit in Misery

Blue Note debut for Tracey

o ponytail, no Armani suit. Stan Tracey has little in common with the glossy conservatory prodigies who are snapped up by the major international labels. Yet here he is, 66 this month, finally making his debut with

As house planist at Ronnie Scott's in the sixties, Tracey had the sometimes thankles task of adapting to the demands of all manner of visiting American soloists. He began to set out his own wares with an unorthodox jazz suite inspired by Dylan Thomas's Under Milk Wood. The evocation of charac-ter and place JAZZ RECORDS

has been a recurrent device, and he returns to it again in Portraits Plus (Blue Note International 7-

80696). Sonny Rollins. Thelonious Monk, Duke Ellington and Gil Evans are the principal subjects of the tributes here. Do not expect brazen imitations, however. Oblique references to past masters are concealed within swirling arrangements for octet, the most supple of Tracey's many lineups. The settings, especially on the bouncing. Rollins esque

the

introspective "One for Gil", combine the brashness of a quintet with the stately power of a big band. It is a potent mixture, even though the extended horn solos - locked onto roaring full-throttle most of the time - lack contrast in

the long run.
Rhythm and blues enthusiasts will need little encouragement to sample the new compilation of Fats Domino's work from 1949 to the advent of the Beatles era. A monu-

equally imposing title, They Call Me The Fat Man... The Legendary Imperial Recordings (EMI CDP7-96785), stacks up a neat 100

If that sounds a mite excessive, it is worth bearing in mind that the set contains virtually every studio song o value. After leaving Imperial, Domino concentrated increasingly on concert perfor mances. He remains a magnificent live act; this collection forms the bedrock of

CLIVE DAVIS

Nirvana: demonstrate their love of a good chorus

The ultimate 14-day guide to Christmas TV and radio

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Early outcuts by the Beatles of grunge

1992 was the year that grunge swept down from the hills and into the high street. The phenomenal success of the Seattle-based trio's casual masterwork, Nevermind, jolted the world of rock on its axis, and the repercussions of the grunge revolution which coalesced around it are now being felt far afield, in movies. fashion and eisewhere.

mand which is insatiable. In song called

order to mop up crued by the ternity, the releases Incest-icide, a 15-track compilation of early singles, B-sides, sessions on John Peel Goodier's radio

pre-dating demos their first recording contract with the Sub Pop label. While not as good as one might expect a bona fide new album to be, there are many fine tracks and even one or two

gems lurking among this rag-bag of archive material. Like punk and psychedelia before it, grunge trades on a certain aggressively stylised rejection of conventional values. As a fashion statement it puts up a rough, disorganised front, while musically its most obvious characteristics are songs of dizzying energy played on guitars cranked to abrasive volume levels and gilded with fiercely recondite

But there are certain characteristics which all leaders of

THANKS, in large part to Nirvana.

Berry riffs; and time and again on Incesticide, Nirvana again on Incesticide, Nirvana demonstrate their love of a good chorus (on songs like "Sliver" and "Molly's Lips") and show themselves more than capable of laying on a neat harmony vocal where appropriate ("Been a Son").

There is, too, a chameleon-like quality to Nirvana's

like quality to Nirvana's music. When called upon to a version of an obscure Devo sone called "Turnaround"

Many fine tracks and even one or two gems lurk in this ragbag of archive material

There are fast, short songs with predatory riffs, such as 'Downer". which recall the punk era, and

clattery than the

are popularly

sound, in fact.

convoluted arrangements like "Aero Zeppelin" and "Big Long Now", both astonishing-ly accomplished demo recordings where the band's musicianly skill - and metal roots — show through.

But of all the qualities which this trawl through Nirvana's back pages reveals, the most impressive is the group's, and particularly singer/guitarist Kurt Cobain's, enquiring cast of mind, often manifested in a willingness to write and play the unplayable and somehow make it sound right.

By far the weirdest track is "Hairspray Queen", a clangy funk number with a deranged vocal from Cobain. Although wildly out on a limb, the song proceeds with its own peculiar grace and although outrageous, it never sounds gratuitously odd. It is a sure sign of greatness when even the offcuts of an act's early work can sound so absorbing.

DAVID SINCLAIR



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Trio & Grand March: LA FORZA DEL DESTINO Page Page: DON CARLOS Friendship Duet, Fer Me Giunta, O Don Fatale: LA TRAVIATA Brindisi, Di Provenza: OTELLO Willow Song, Ave Maria, Si Per Ciel SUSAN BULLOCE BY: FIGNA KIMM INDEZU, EDMUND BARHAM THE ANTHONY MICHAELS MOORE IN THE LONDON CHORAL SCTY BAND OF THE WEISH GUARDS FANNARE TRUMPETERS LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA, PAUL WYNNE-GRIFFITHS cond

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Familiare Trumpeters of the Coldistream Guards
Tenor: BONAVENTURA BOTTONE
MENDELSSOHN Fingal's Cave, VERDI Chorus of
Hebrew Shaves, RAVEL Bolero, DONIZETTI
Una furtiva lagrima, ELGAR Foung &
Circumstance, ORIF O fortuna Carmina
Burano, VALIGHAN WILLIAMS Greensiteeves,
DUKAS Sorceren's Apprentice, PUCCINI
E Incewam le stelle, WAGNER Ride of the Valkyries,
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Radetzky Harch, VERDI La doma e mobile,
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mal Symphony Orchestra. Cond: DAVID COLEMAN MALCOLM SARGENT FESTIVAL CROIR Fanfare Trumpeters of the Grenadier Gaurda Sop: SUSAN BULLOCK Mezzo: SALLY BURGESS Tenor: ANTHONY MEE Baritone: DONALD MAXWELL

Tenor: ANTHONY MEE Baritone: DONALD MAXWELL
Ov. THIEVING MAGPIE, Duet LARME,
Chorus of Hebrew Siaves & Finale (Act 2) NABUCCO,
One fine day MADAM BUTTERITY,
Habanera & Toreador's song CARMEN,
On with the motive y I PAGLIACCI,
Pilgrims' Chorus TANDHAISEE, Largo al
factotum THE BARBER OF SEVILLE,
Duet PEARLFISHERS, E lucevan le stelle TOSCA,
Anvil Chorus IL TROVATORE, Softly awakes my heart
SAMSON & DELILAH, La doma e mobile & Quartet
BIGOLETTO, Intermezzo CAVALLERIA RUSTICAMA,
Overture & Party Scene DIE FLEDERMAIS
Grand March AIDA • Nessen dorma TURANDOT

FRIDAY 1 JANUARY at 7.30 VIENNESE NEW YEAR **GALA OF MUSIC & DANCE**

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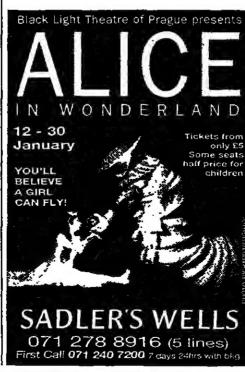
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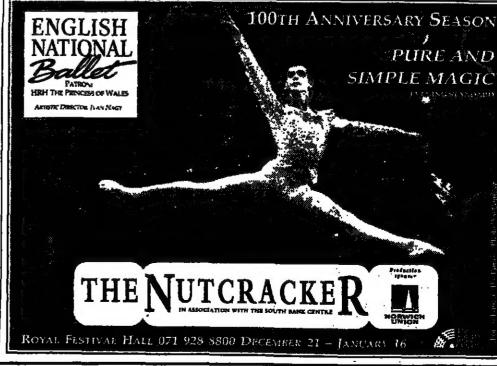
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7.30 Spider: Musical carloon (r) (s) (4486345) 7.35 Animal World.

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9.00 Going Live! Sarah Greene and Phillip Schofield are joined by Linda Robson, Pauline Quirke, Rachel Victoria Roberts, Lindy Ann Berras and Kristian Schmid Take That and Lisa Stansfield provide the

music (s) (78348426) 12.12 Weather (1902258)
12.15 Grandstand introduced by Bob Wilson. The line-up includes (subject to alteration). 12.20 Football: Bob Wilson and Gary Lineker (Subject to atteration). 12.20 Footpall: Bob Wilson and Gary Lineker look back at the week's Premier League action: 12.45, 1.15 and 1.50 Racing from Ascot: HSS Hire Shops Hurdle Race (12.50), Youngmans Long Walk Hurdle Race (1.20), SGB Handicap Chase (1.55), 1.00 News: 1.05 Boxing: British and Commonwealth lightweight champion Bill Schwer takes on former WBO champion Maurizio Acevez at Wembley Conference Centre; 1.30 Golf: highlights of the second round of the Johnnie Walker World Championship of Solf from the Tivall Club, Monteon Raw, Jamalca Championship of Golf from the Tryall Club, Montego Bay, Jamalca; 2.05 Show jumping Volvo World Cup qualifier from Olympia; 2.55 and 3.55 Rugby League: Live coverage of one of the quarter-final tes in the Regal Trophy; 3.45 Football half-times, 4.40 Final Score

5.05 News with Moira Stuart. Weather (2473258) 5.15 Regional news and sport (4087398). Wales: (until 5.50) Wales on Saturday 5.20 Dad's Arany. Arthur Lowe, John Le Mesurier and Circe Dunn star in. Jimmy Perry and David Croft's viritage series following the burnbling artics of a seaside town's Home Guard. (Ceefax) (r)

(6147277) 5.50 Big Break. Jrn Davidson and referee John Virgo are joined by Terry 5.50 Big Break, Jim Davidson and referee John Virgo are joined by Terry Griffiths, Ken Doherty and Cliff Thorburn. (Ceefax) (s) (130638)
6.20 Noel's House Party Noel Edmonds is joined by Bea Arthur and Jeremy Bales; and Anne Diamond and Nick Owen win themselves a "Gotcha Oscar" (s) (299364)
7.15 Bruce Forsyth's Generation Game. Four more couples compete for the prizes on the conveyor belt. With Rosemane Ford. (Ceefax)

8.15 Casualty Grity hospital drama. Julian has to make a difficult cares decision, a young skater's future is in doubt when her father accidentally runs over her foot; and a pit-bull owner arrives with hornic gashes, caused during a fight between two dogs. (Ceefax)

9.05 News and sport with Martyn Lewis. Weather (527187)



Hiding from the Mob: Ashton, Grodin and De Niro (9.25pm)

9.25 Film: Midnight Rum (1988). Tough and humorous chase thriller starring Robert De Naro as a bounty hunter tracking bail-jumper Charles Grodin who has embezzied a vast sum of money from the Maña. With John Ashton. Directed by Martin Brest of Beverly Hills Cop (47954884)

ch of the Day. Ray Stubbs introduces highlights of two of

today's Premier League games (556567)

12.20am World Championship Golf. Steve Rider Introduces action from the Johnnie Walker World Championship from the Tryall Club in Jamaica (7496488) 1.50 Weather (7235310)

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BBC2

9.05 Film: Unconquered (1947). Lush and preposterous Cects. B. DeMille adventure starting Paulette Goddard as a woman sentenced for murder. She is given the choice of stavery in the colonies or the gallows in London. Not surprisingly she opts for the feetings. former. (68358613)

11.25 Bird's Eye View. René Cutforth surveys Wales from the sides (r) (1968155) 12.15 Film: The Lady Vanishes (1938, b/w)

 CHOICE. A season of Hitchcocks for Christmas opens with this joyous cornedy-thriller in which a little old lady (Dame May Whithy) goes missing from a transcontinental express and Michael Redgrave and Margaret Lockwood find themselves playing detectives. Curiously, in view of the film's reputation, Hitchcock was not the first-choice director. In any case proper credit must 90 to

Frank Launder and Sidney Gilliat for their witty and inventive script. But the Hitchcock touches are there in plenty and if he did not initiate the project, he had no difficulty stamping his signature on it. Incidental pleasure comes from the first of many film appearances. by Charters and Caldicott, alias Besil Radford and Naunton Wayne. Their concern to get back to England for the Test match is a delicious running gag (485857)

 1.50 Network East. Asian magazine series (s) (37270529)
 2.20 Tanhalyan. The ninth episode in the 13-part drams following the fortunes of two sisters growing up in Pakistan. In Urdu with English subtitles (4857819)

3.00 Animation Now narrated by Orson Welles (5390426)
3.10 Film: Spartacus (1960). Intelligent epic starring Kirk Douglas as the gladiator who leads an army of slaves against the Roman Empire. With Laurence Olivier and Jean Simmons. This restored version includes five minutes of footage lopped off by the censor. Directed by Stanley Kubrick. (Ceefex) (s) (12903606)

6.10 The Swagger Portrait. A host of celebrities from Martyn Lawis to the Chippendales refliect on portraits painted of members of British

society (r) (526364) 6.25 Scrutliny. Nicholas Jones reports on the work of the House of

Commons select committees. (Ceefax) (147906). Wales: Wales in

Westminater

7.05 News and sport with Chris Lowe. Weather (638513)

7.20 Music On 2: Erik Satie — Things Seen to the Right and the Left

● CHOICE: An enticing portrait of the oddball French composer
establishes that there was much more to him than the deceptive
simplicity of the much-played "Gymnopedies". For one thing, there
was "Vexations": which Satie recommended to be played 840
times. In the course of this film the planist John White takes Satie at
his word. For another, there was an outrageous jazz-Influenced
ballet which Satie devised with Picasso and Jean Cocteau. There
was the score for René Clair's experimental film, Entracte. An
iconoclast to the day he died, Satie finally found his intellectual
home among the dedaists. Director Christopher Hale ofters a defityorganised survey of the life and the art, rich in musical illustration organised survey of the life and the art, rich in musical illustration and, unusually for a television documentary, stressing analysis rather than anecdote (8676529)

8.35 Have I Got News for You. Angus Deayton, Ian Histop and Paul Menton are joined by Clive Anderson and Alan Coren in the last of the series (f) (s) (374762)



To helf with the forties: Judi Dench hits the bottle (9.05pm)

9.05 Performance: Absolute Hell. Judi Dench stars in this black corredy, set in a Soho club in the weeks leading up to the 1945 general election, which is being shown as a tribute to its author, Rodney Ackland, who died in 1991 (r). (Ceefax) (a) (59450971) 11.05 Film: Nobody's Fool (1986). Slight but charming romantic cornedy starring Rosanna Arquette as a bored waitress who joins a theatre

group and falls for set designer Eric Roberts. Directed by Evelyn Purcell (540109). Ends at 12.55am

ITY LONDON

6.00 TV-am (5426451)
9-25 What's Up Doc? Yvette Fielding, Andy Crane and Pat Sharp are joined by Darren Day and John Altman (s) (34247074)
11-30 Movies, Movies, Movies, Includes reviews of The Muppet Christmas Carol and Cool World (9155)
10 The TM Chart Share featuring Dr Hook's "When You're in Love

12.00 The ITY Chart Show featuring Dr Hook's "When You're in Love with a Beautiful Woman" (s) (57890) 1.00 News with Dermot Murnaghan. Weather (11323906) 1.05 LWT

news (11322277)

1.10 Highdays and Holidays, Jerry Bristow makes a feast of edicie Christmes presents (93186722)

1.40 Matiocic The Thief. The defence lawyer takes on the case of a

rare-coin dealer who is accused of murdering an employee

3.20 WCW Worldwide Wrestling. Action from America (9925616) 4.10 Dimosaurs. Prehistoric puppet show. The first recorded case of sexual harasement (s) (6461136)
4.40 News with Dermot Murnaghan. Weether (1657631) 5.00 LWT

news (8386105) 5.05 Cartoon Time (2395426) 5.15 Beverly Hill 90210 Christmas Movie. Sessonal version of

teenage Angst with the impossibly lovely pupils of a California high school. Brandon begins a new relationship with Kelly; and Steve discovers the truth about his parents. (Oracle) (s) (4920906) 6.30 Beadle's About. More unsuspecting members of the public become the stars of the show, with a little help from Jeremy Beadle

7.00 New Columbo: Agenda for Munder staming Peter Falk as the dishevelled detective with the orderly mind. Columbo questions the suicide of a notorious racisseer and finds himself pitting his wits against a brillient lawyer (Patrick McGoohan). (Oracle) (88065513) wes with Dermot Mumaghan. Weather (262529) 9.00 LWT weather (289722)



Femme fatale: Laura San Glacomo, Llam Nesson (9.05pm

9.05 Film: Under Suspicion (1991).

● CHOICE: A moody, devious thriller from writer/director Simon Moore is set in Brighton in the 1950s where private detective Tony Aaron (Liam Neeson) specialises in divorce. He becomes involved in a double murder and falls in love with the chief suspect, played by Laura San Giacomo of sex, lies and videotape. Moore's inspiration was that curious ritual by which people seeking a divorce spent a weekend with a stranger to provide "evidence" of adultery. Cinema and literary buffs, however, may detact other influences, notably the Hollywood. film noir with its treacherous woman and, given the location, the seedy ambience of Graham Greene's Brighton Rock. As a pastiche Under Suspicion may invite comparisons it cannot sustain but the narrative is crisp and full of twists and the pace never slackens (47041364) 10.55 Almost Grown. Suzie recalls a wedding she attended in the early

Severties (123513)
11.50 PoV Peter Gabriel. Highlights of the singer's concert performed in 1987 at the foot of the Acropolis in Athens, as seen from his own

point of view (383180)

1.30am The Big E. Magazine programme for and about young Europeans (s) (4325759)

2.45 London Lights. How London's department stores select a theme for their Christmas decorations (22020) 3.40 New Music. Pop videos and interviews (34865) 4.35 The Hit Man and Her. Pete Waterman and Michaela Strachen with

the latest on the club scene (a) (59198) 5.30 ITN Morning News (15223). Ends at 6.00

As London except: 1.10 The Life and Times of Grizzly Adams (8979513) 2.05 Film: Sands of the Desert (219635) 3.59-4.40 Wreating (7021426) 5.00-6.15 Angla News (A807277) 10.85-11.50 Penn and Teller News 10.85-11.50 Penn and Teller N

As Losdon except: 1.10 Granada Sport (18825105) 1.30 Fahr: Tiger of the Seven Sees (99058) 3.00-4.40 Granada Sport (62043242) 5.00-5.15 Border News (2396155) 10.55 POV Peter Gabriel (9314971) 1.200 Fahr: Michight Movie Massacre (25407) 2.00 The His Man and Her (36001) 4.00 Videolashion (73469) 4.30-3.30 The Big E (85196)

CENTRAL
As Landon except: 1.10 The Life and Times
of Grazy Adams (8978513) 2.05 Film: Carry
on Cowboy (219835) 3.30-4.40 Wresting
(7921426) 3.00 Central News (83818105)
5.05-5.15 The Central Match Goals Edta
(2395426) 12.50 POV Peter Gabnet (48525)
2.30 Charry Attraction (8952) 3.00 America's Top Ten (80198) 3.30 Elvis: Good
Roden' Tonight (85204) 4.00 The Bicardennial Concest from the Sydney Einerdamment
Centre (8372440) 4.35-5.30 Central Jobfinder '92 (2780730)

As London except 11.36-12.00 Zoro (9155) 1.10 Granada Sport (18926105) 1.30 Film: Tiger of the Seven Sees (9808) 3.00-4.40 Granada Sport (82043242) 5.00-5.15 (2155) 1,10 Graned Film: Tiger of the St 4,40 Graneda Spor Graneda News (8395105) followed by Graneda Sport Goels Edra (2395428) 10.55 POV Peter Gebriel (55797587) 12.30 Film:

HTV WALES As HTV West except: E.00-5.15 HTV Wales

TSW

"As London except: '11.30-12.00 The Munsters Today (9156) 1.10 The Life and Times of Grazdy Adems (7245616) 2.35-4.40 This Stagecoach (73560432) 5.00-5.15 TVS News (6007277) 10.65-11.50 The Young Ricers (123513)

Special (37)37242 2.10 Part: Pippi (2005 On Board (488658) 2.45-4.40 McCloud (8806432) 5.00-5.15 Tyre Traes Sport Special (4807277) 10.55 PDV Peter Gebral (53314971) 12.30 Film; Seniore (Dermite Outd., Jeffrey Byron, Gary Inhort) (25407) 2.00 The Hrt Man and Her (36001) 4.00

ULSTER

As London except: 11.30-12.00 Zorro (9195) 1.05 Utster Newstime (11323905) 1.10 Saturday Sport (11230242) 1.30 Rock Sport (43277657) 1.40 Plant Carry On Jack (2877900) 3.25 Movies, Movies, Movies (3421567) 3.35-4.40 Wrestling (3391277) (3421657) 2.35-4.40 Wheating (3391277) 5.05-5.16 Saturday Sport (2395426) 10.55 PCV Peter Gabriel (60314971) 12.30 Fam: Midnight Movre Messacre (Horror spoof) (25407) 2.00 The Hit Man and Her (36001) 4.90 Video(sahlon (73469) 4.30-5.00 The Plo F (413161)

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Heathcliff. Animation (f) (1726426) 6.25 Eureeka's Castle. Music and cartoons for the under-fives (r) (5700635) 6.55 Kideo. Surlight and cartoons for the under-lives (r) (5/00535) 6.55 Kilsen. Surfight (5) (1615971) 7.25 High 5. Waterskiing (2147600) 7.55 Trace (5) (1615971) 7.25 High 5. Waterskiing (2147600) 9.00 News World Sport. International sporting news (4705906) 9.00 News Summary (4594093) 9.15 Racing: The Morning Line (5056093) Summary (4594093) 9.15 Racing: The Morning Line (5056093) 10.00 One Stop from Hell. Neil Hanson follows the British Lions Rugby 1.00 One Stop from Hell. Neil Hanson follows the British Lions Rugby 1.00 One Stop from Hell. Neil Hanson follows (90180)

League Tour of Papua New Guinea (90180)

10.30 Gazzetta Football Italia. Paul Gascogne takes his weekly look at

the Italian league (89600)

11.30 American Football with Gary Imlach and Mick Luckhurst (r) (7797)

12.00 Sign On: Your Views. The official launch by the Princess of Wales

of the British Sign Language Dictionary (24074)

12.30 Songs and Memories. Veteran actor Jairaj talks to Zamine

1.00 Film: Father Brown (1954, b/w) stamng Alec Guinness as G. K. Chesterton's eccentric priest, trying to save a priceless crudity from the hands of a jewel thief (Peter Finch). A stylish and clyfised entertainment, directed by Robert Hamer. (Teletext) (70080242) 2.35 Film: The Amerous Prawn (1962, b/w). Joan Greenwood stars as an improverished general's wife who turns their official Scottish residence into a luxury hotel for Americans. Directed from his stage

hit by Anthony Kimmins (56287426)

4.15 Film: The Memphis Belle (1944), William Wyler's classic second word documentary about the Flying Fortress and its 25

missions over Germany (8965426) 5.00 Half Baked. Plasticine animation (5450877)

5.00 Half Baked. Plasticine enimation (5450877)
5.05 Brookside. Omnibus edition (r). (Teletet) (s) (3530513)
6.30 Right to Reply Introduced by Sheena McDonald. Viewer Rachel Malik enalyses the BBC's claims about the future of its news and current affairs and discusses her findings with Tony Hall, head of News and Current Affairs. (Teletext) (s) (616)
7.00 A Week in Politics presented by Vincent Hanna and Andrew Rawnsley. Sir Norman Fowler MP, chairman of the Conservative party, assesses the state of Tony fortunes as the year draws in a

party, assesses the state of Tory fortunes as the year draws to a close; and Labour activists in Telford discuss the future of their party

8.00 The Big Battalions. The final episode of the topical religious drama. starring Brian Cox and Jane Lapotaire (r). (Teletext) (s) (2971)



Having monstrous fun in the USA: Jonathan Ross (9.00pm)

● CHOICE: Sporting a red striped Jacket and baggy shorts, Jonathan Ross goes in search of American fun. His thesis is that the Americans are better at it than anyone else and the more tasteless and tacky the better. Or, to quote our host directly: "If it's worth doing, it's worth overdoing in a big and dumb way". Collecting random pieces of eccentricity, the programme does not have the coherence of last week's excursion into junk food but it's hard to stop watching. For some the highlight will be Ross stripping off his jacket and shorts and everything else to join a nucle game of shuffleboard. The episode is coyly enough filmed to head off complaints and the easily shocked may be more offended by snother item, about a club which restricts membership to makes with expectationally improved the matter membership to make with exceptionally impressive members (5635) 10.00 Film: Tenue de Soinée (1985). The Gérard Depardieu sesson

continues with this black cornedy about a homosexual criminal who introduces a married couple to a life of crime. He then turns his attention to the downtrodden husband, rather than the gorgeous wife, and a bizarre menage à trois begins. Directed by Bertrand Blier

11.35 Pallas. Final episode of the spoot royal scap opera (r). (Teletext) (s) 11.55 Let The Blood Run Free. The last in the Australian medical spoof

soep. Will Marron have the lest laugh? (649703)

12.25mm The Happening, Jools Holland is joined by 29 Palms, Bobby Valentino and Harland Williams (s) (8652240)

1.25 The Word (r) (s) (1061056)
2.25 Film: The Devil Commands (1941, b/w), Brisk thriller starring Boris Karloff as a scientist trying to make contact with his dead wife. Directed by Edward Dmytryk (8583952). Ends at 3.35

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

6.00em Danger Bay (2006) 6.30 Elephant Boy (3072) 7.00 Fun Factory (3589161) 12.00 Barnaby Jones (13495) 1.00pet Fan The Love Bools (1977) staring from Bosley (42567) 3.00 Cantons (45677) 4.00 The Dures of Hazzard (17722) 5.00 WWF Supersing of Wigesting (7549) 6.0 Mini-Superstars of Wiestling (7548) 8.00 Knights and Wamors (15838) 7.00 UK Top 40 9.00 Cops I (13906) 9.30 Cops II (14156) 10.00 Saurday Night Uve (3358) 11.06 HA Sheet Blues (53161) 12.00 Skytex SKY NEWS

Twenty-law hour news service SKY MOVIES+

bunging Scottish highwayman (40155) 10.00 Stood Up. Anget-ridden romantic drama (7400) 11.00 The Perfect Date (1989): Cornedy about a disastrous night out (67364) 12.00 Superman III (1983): Christopher

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Tot The Arrheitis and Rheumatism Council for Research-FREEPOST, Chesterfield S41 78R

4.00 Underschievers (1987); Cornedy set in a reformatory (33555). Ends at 6.00 SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm The King and I (1956): Musical with Yul Brynner as the King of Stern and Deborah Karr as a governess (83154180) 4.15 And Than There Were More (1945, b/w): Agains Christie whodunit (40567105) 12.00 Supernam III (1963): Christopher Reeve battles against his evil alter ego (3906)
2.00pm Ermest Saves Christmas (1988). Comedy with Jim Varney (57836)
4.00 Grand Larcenry (1988): Marilla Henner minetts her lather's busness (5780)
8.00 The Dream Machine (1991): Corey New: Agains Christie whodunt (40567105) 8.00 Outland (1951): Sean Connery as a marshal on Jupiae's third moon (57585567) 8.55 Audrey Rose (1977): Arthony Hopkins claims a girl is the reincamatic daughter (106529). Ends at 11.45 THE MOVIE CHANNEL

7.40em The Fire in the Stone (1985) world cruse (75227635) 11.00 White Cradle Ion (1947): A Swee tel owner wants to adopt a French refuges

writer in Hollywood (41020374) 5.15 Around the World with Dot. Live action/carloon (6807204) Ends at 6.25

SKY SPORTS 130em Fishing the West (61616) 7.00 The lig League (107109) 9.30 Galette Sports 6.30sm Fishing the West (61616) 7.00 The Big League (107109) 9.30 Galerte Sports (23345) 10.00 The Boot Room (64744) 11.00 Sky Soccer Weekend (18800) 12.00 WMF Whesting Challenge (50086) 1.00pm Sports Saturday (1677033) 6.00 Ringsade Theatre (45180) 7.00 Muscle Nigri (74529) 8.00 WMF Primerine Wresting (31548) 9.30 European League Round-Up (14068) 10.30 Ringsade (47906) 12.30sm Superirar (33486) 1.30-2.30 Surfing (14575) PHIDOSED COT

EUROSPORT 8.00cm Step Acrobics (17819) 8.30 Ford Se Report (40154) 9.30 Free Style Steing

(74345) 10.39 Alpine Siding (23426) 11.00 Bowng (4226) 12.30pm Karate European Chempionship (8833) 1.50 Cross Country Sking (57567) 2.30 Terms ATP. Tour (52766) 5.00 Euroscores (508242) 5.05 Termis Roland Garros French Open (4553890) 7.00 Indoor Yachino (14557) 9.00 Euroscores (5008) 9.30 Indoor Yaching (80744) 10.30-12.00 Bowng (81053)

SCREENSPORT

6.00mm Longitude (9298984) 6.50 World Cup Skiing Magazine (4498513) 7.80 Go — Motorsport (6731277) 8.80 World Cup Skiing (1940428) 10.20 Cillette World Cup Skiing (1940428) 10.20 Cillette World Sports Special (8057155) 10.30 NPL — Week in Review (9718548) 11.20 NBA Action 1922 (5050838) 11.50 Live World Cup Skiing (9853816) 11.00mm NBA Besierbal (64703) 3.00 for Result (9852616) 10.00mm NBA Besierbal (64703) 3.00 for Result (9852616) 10.00 Horizon (46258) 5.00 Johnnie Walker (2016) (91819) 9.00 Powersports (98165) 10.00 Motorsport (91242) 11.00 Powersport (98165) 10.00 Motorsport (91242) 11.00 Powersport (91640) 10.00 Notorsport (91242) 11.00 Powersport (91640) 10.00 PBA Bowleng (50204) 3.00 Lodies Pro Bowling (55440) 4.00 Go — Motorsport (47361) 5.00-6.00 Ther Kick Bork (23575)

LIFESTYLE

12.00 Rembo (18548) 12.20pm Spiral Zone (57971) 1.00 White Shadow (7642251) 1.55 The Orean Chasers (45222155) 2.25 The Green Home! (45030103) 2.00 Spain Spain Holiday (712548) 3.05 The Adventures of Jim Bowe (5357628) 3.20 Johnny Ringo (5557) 4.00 Mete Room tor Daddy (5074) 4.30 Garreshows (29703) 6.00 561-4-Kson (5294180) 10.00 Music Videos (9654432) 2.30-3.00em Top Pive (46440)

UK GOLD

6.00mm Rambow (10810528) 8.15 Chorton and the Wheeles (10535684) 6.50 Dangermouse (2355384) 7.00 Lausie (2714345) 7.30 Ow TV (2726180) 8.00 (2714945) 7.36 Owi TV (2726180) 8.00 Chocky's Challenge (2649867) 8.30 Perterphosi (2648256) 9.00 Visioneres (262826) 9.30 Rude Dog and the Dweebe (4195825) 10.00 Dungsons and Dragotis (2651722) 11.00 Pint: Hoppity Goes to Town (35970242) 12.15pm Pint: Fort Apache (1948, blw) serring Henry Fort Apache (1948, blw) serring Henry Fort Apache (1948, blw) serring Henry Fort Apache (1948-16) 5.30 Pive Children and John Weyne (56191089) 2.46 EastEnders (76574741) 5.30 Pive Children and It (3616797) 6.00 Bergerate (56447801) 7.30 Bless This House (4696569) 7.30 Tell Death Do Us Part (3999079) 8.00 Miss Memple (8478384) 10.00 Separate But Equal (2505109) 11.46 The Young Oree (8903836) 12.15tm Three of a Kind (2081204) 12.45-2.00 In Concert Squeeze (83418469)

Fits Stereo and MW. 4.00mm Nepte Jernes (Fits only until 4.00mm) 7.00 Gary Devices 10.00 Only Let Travis 1.00mm Admin Justic 2.00 The Year of the Reds: Paul Gembaccini talks to Mid-Hudinati of Simply Red 3.00 John He Walker 4.00 The Saturday Rock Shore 8.30 Songineer Comedy and music 9.00 Analy Kenthaw 11.00 John Peel (Fit only) from 12.00] 2.00-4.00mm Lynn Parsons (Fit only)

PADIO 2

FM Stereo. 4.00am Bill Rennella 6.00 Berbara Surgeon 8.05 Brian Methew: Sounds of the Fittes 2.00 Serve Rece 4.00 Chrismas Tutesyst 5.00 Reciscovering Yesterday: The story of Paul McCarrey 6.00 Things are Swargeng! 7.00 Berbard the Hits 7.30 The Magic of Christians: A concern of sessonal music 9.00 Easy Does it 10.00 Rorrie Hitton (r) 11.00 Radio 2 Arts Programme from the Nelional Theatre, London 1.00-4.00am John Terrett with Night Ride

RADIO 5

News and aport on the hour until Middley.
6.00 mm World Service: World News; 8.00
News About Britain; 8.15 The World Today
6.30 Weekand Edison 9.30 Get Set 10.30 Tales of the Texas Rangers 11.00 Gol 12.00
Sport on 4 Plus 1 (as Radio 4 at 9.05 mm) 12.30 pages Sportscale 1.30 Sport on Five, with John Inverdide: Football Premis Lague; Rugby Union: ADT Divisional Championship: Rugby League; Regal Trophy, Rading from Ascot: 1.55 SGB Handicap Chase 5.00 Sports Report 6.06 Sci-O-Sic 7.30 Le Top 9.00 Alropop Worldwide. Merengue and Beyond 10.15 On the Level, Incl 11.00 Sport 12.00-12.10 are News; Sport

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT, 4.30em World Business Report 4.40 Travel and Weather News 4.48 Programmes in German 5.30 Europe Today 5.59 Weather 6.00 World and British News 6.15 The World Today 6.20 Programme in French 5.59 Weather 6.00 World and British News 6.15 The World Today 6.20 Programme in French 6.89 Weather 7.00 Newsdesk 7.30 People and Politics 8.00 World News 8.05 World of Faith 8.15 A Jolly Good Show 9.00 News 9.05 World Business Report 8.15 WorldTief 9.30 Personal View 9.45 Sports Poundup 10.00 News 10,01 Jazz Now and Then 10.15 Letter from Amencs 10.30 Waveguide 10.40 Book Chaces 10.45 From the Weekless 11,00 Newsdesk 11.29 Travel News 11,30 BBC English 11.46 Mittagsmagazin Midday News 12.09pm Words of Faith 12.15 Multitrack 3 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 Newshour 2.00 Cub 648 2.15 Personal View 2.30 Sportsworld 3.00 News 3.15 Sportsworld 4.00 News 4.08 News About 9720 Personal View 4.25 Words of Faith 8.30 Europa This Weekend 8.56 Europa Personal View 4.25 Words of Faith 8.30 Europa This Weekend 8.56 Europa 9200 Newshour 10.00 News 10.15 Medical 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 News 11.05 Words of Faith 11.15 Book Choice 11.15 A Jolly Good Show Midmind Newsdesk Sports News 9.00 Newshout 10,00 News 10,16 Mandain 10,48 Sports Roundup 11,00 News 11,06 Words of Feith 11,10 Book Choice 11,15 A Jolly Good Show Midnight Newsdeek 12,30am The Ken Bruce Show 1,00 News 1,10 Play of the Week: The White Carriedon 2,00 News 4,20 Europe at the Time 3,00 News 3,09 News About Bittari 3,16 Sports Roundup 3,30 From Our Own Correspondent 3,50 Write On 4,00 News 4,15 Under Timest 6,00am Serah Lucia 9,00 Chesic CD Chart Flundown 12,00 Petro: Tretainty 3,00pm Adright Love 8,00 Classic America with Medical Control of Control

Cooper 7.00 Metropolitan Opera: Live from New York: Seiji Ozwa conducts Tohail Fungny Opera: 10 to Clarge Date of the Control of the Control

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

BORDER

CENTRAL

Midright Movie Measure (\$487020) 2.90
The Hill Man and Her (151643) 4.00
Videolistico (\$6006852) 4.30-4.30 Big E
Video Show (\$31

HTV WEST As London except: 1,10 frommon World Tristifion Championships 1992 (24831567) 3,05-4,40 Film: The Overlanders (44328255) 5,00-5,15 HTV West News and Sport

TSW
As London except: 11.30-12.00 The South West Week (3155) 1.10 Oil the Hook Special (8979513) 2.05-4.40 Pilm: The Scarlet and the Black (38107161) 5.00 TSW News (3300105) 5.05-5.15 Guz Homeyoun's Carbon Time (295626) 10.55 POV Peter Gabriel (92614971) 12.30 Pira: Midnight Movie Massacre (25407) 2.00 The Hit Men and Her (30001) 4.00 Videolashion (73489) 4.304.30 The Bits E-591981 4.30-6.30 The Big E (59198)

Christmas at Christmas Islan 5.30 Cue the Music (58196)

TVS

VORKSHIRE

As London except: 11.30-12.00 The Mountain Bike Show (8165) 1.10 The A-Team (8979513) 2.05 Rim: The Apple Dumpling Geng Rides Again (Tim Conway, Don Knots, Harry Morgan, Elyssa Davates) (579529) 3.45-4.40 McCloud (8806432) TYNE TEES

As London encept: 1.16 Channon & Ball Video Show (8318872) 1.40 Motoport (170778) 4.00 Christmas on Christmas Christmas on Christmas

S4C Starts: 6.55 Kideo (1615671) 7.25 High 5 (2147900) 7.55 Trans World Sport (470) 217-2007/3-5 irans words sport in russule; 8.00 News (4594063) 8.15 Racing. The Morning Line (5056033) 10.00 Jeahn (50180) 10.30 Gazzatia Football Italias — With Paul Gascugne (89600) 11.30 American Football: Pary Action (7797) 12.00 Happy Days (24074) 12.30 The Costry Show (70797) 1.00 Fith. Father Brown (70060242) 2.35 Fith: The Amorous Prawn (50267429) 4.15 Fithe Perfect Ft (791894) 4.45 The Three Stooges (4807154) 5.05 Brookside (2530513) 6.30 Magor Roundabout (201838) 6.35 Now You're Tallong (151109) 7.00 News (737838) 7.15 Bacha Hi O'Ma (303971) 8.00 Delyn (779906) 8.55 Tocyn Tymor (263819) 9.45 Pallas (802513) 10.00 Americana (8722) 11.00 Film: Les Valseuses (11726838) 1.15 Close

RADIO 3

6.55em Weather 6.55mm Weather
7.00 Record Review, introduced by Paul Guinery. J.C. Bech (Symphony in B flat for wind: Consortum Classicum); Sgambati (Suite in B minor: Ruggero Rucco, piano); Grieg (Symphonic Dances, Op 84: Royal Stockholm PO under Germachy Rozhdestvensky); Eustache du Caurroy (Fantasy on the carol "Il estot une fillette"; André Isoir, orcen);

on the carol "Il estoft une fillette": André Isoir, organ); Maxwell Davies (Five Carols: Boys of King's College, Cambridge, under Stephen Claobury); Haydin (Trio In D, H XV 16: Tuija Hakkila, flute, Milkeel Helasvuo, cello, Anssi Karttunen, fortapiano); Britlen (Four Sea Interfudes, Peter Gelmes: trom Leonard Grimes: from Leonard Bernstein's last concert of August 19, 1990, with the Boston Symphony Orchestra)

9.00 News 9.05 Record Review (cont), with Richard Osborne, Building a Library: Reviews of Massenet's opera Werther and issues of Tchaikovsky's complete ballet The Nutoracker over the past two years; 10.35 Record
Refease: Tchalkovsky
(Transformation Scene: from David Nice's preferred version of The Nutcracker); Marc-Antoine Charpentier (Messe de minuit sur les noëls: Soloists; Schole Cantorum Boston; Boston Camerata under Joel Cohen): Karl Janovicky on Chant du Monde's series Praga, and recordings from the archives of Czech Radio;

Honegger (String Quartet No 2: Martinu Quartet) 1.00pm News 1.05 Mozart's Violin Sonatas: in the second of four recitals, Gyorgy Pauk, violin, Peter Frankl, piano, perform Sonața in A. K305: Sonața in F. K376; Sonața în E fat, K302: Sonața în B fat, K378, including at 4.41 letrouil Beaching at 1.40 Interval Reading (r) 2.25 Britannia Triumphana: Ti first of 12 programmes of

New London Consort under Philip Pickett perform A Prigrime's Solace, 1612 (r) 3.00 Soft: The Golden Ring. Natelle Wheen talks to the conductor Sir Georg Solti

English consort music, Pariet

extracts from Das Pheingold, seracus from Das Prienryck, Siegfried, Der Flagende Holländer, Tristen und Isolde, Die Meistersinger, Lohengrin, Persital and Gütterdammerun, 5.00 Jazz Record Requesta, with Geoffrey Smith 5.45 Third Opinion: Christopher Cook chairs a discussion on the best and worst of the past year's films, theatre, books

the best and worst of the peak year's flires, theatre, books and art. With Richard Cork, Paul Bailey, Michelene Wandor and Philip Dodd

6.30 Don Carlos: Chorus and Orchestre of La Scale, Milan, under Riccardo Musi perform Acts 1 and 2 of Verdi's opera, recorded earlier this month at the opening night of La. recorded earlier this month at the opening night of La Scale's season in Milan. Sung in Italian, With Luciano Pavarotti in the title rote; Samuel Ramey as King Philip II of Spain; Paolo Coni as Rodrígo; Daniella Dessi as Elisabeth de Valols; and Luciana D'Intinto as Princess Eboli. 8.16 F.J. Lamport considers Verdi's operatic

considers Verdi's operation treatment of Schiller's drama, Don Carlos, 8.35 Acts 3 and 4 9.55 The Afterfile
 CHOICE: Reading his own short story, which was recorded for and by the BBC in a Boston studio, the American writer John Updike American water source of the bransatantic nature of the occasion by selecting for his cast four Americans caught up in the devestating British storm of 1967. Update himself was visiting East Anglia when the big winds struck. This explains why he captures their apocalyptic impact so vividly in the story which he sets in

sensitively
10.20 Debussy and Schumann:
Eric Le Segé, piano, performs
Debussy (Arabesque No 1;
Suite, Children's Corner); Schumenn (Camevell) (r) Glasgow Jazz Festival; Kenny Mathieson introduces a concert by the Elvin Jones
Jazz Machine, recorded in July at the Royal Concert Hall. Elvin Jones, drums, Ravi Coltrane and Sonny Fortune, reeds,

Willie Pickens, plano, and Andy McKee, bass, perform Mister Day, Alabama; Afro-

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blue and Doll of the brids

RADIO 4

(a) Stereo on FM
5.55am. Stupping Forecast 6.00
News Briefing, Incl 6.03
Weather 6.10 The Farming
Week 6.50 Prayer for the Day
6.55 Weather 7.00 Today, Incl
7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News
7.20 Listeners' Letters 7.25,
8.25 Sports News 7.45
Thought for the Day 7.55
Weether 8.40 Yesterday in
Parliament 8.58 Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Sport on 4

Parliament 8.58 Wearner
9.00 News 9.05 Sport on 4
9.30 Breakaway explores
undiscovered Essex and
Florence behind closed doors
10.00 News; Loose Ends: Ned
Shemin with Arthur Smith, John
Welters and Emma Freud (s)
41 An Maune: The Weak in 11.00 News; The Week in Westminster, with Michael White of The Guardian

White of The Guardian
11.30 Europhile
12.00 Money Box.
12.25pm I'm Sorry I Haven't a
Clue: Humphrey Lytietton wit
Willie Rushion, Paul Merton,
Graeme Garden and Barry
Cyer (3) 12.55 Weather
1.00 News 1.10 Arry Questions?
Jonathan Dimbleby chairs a
discussion in Barbury,
Oxfordshire, between Lady
Howe, chairwoman of

Howe, chairwoman of Opportunity 2000; Glerrys Kirnock, chairwoman of One World Action: Sir Nigel Mobbs, chairman of Airns of Industry and Slough Estatea plc; and Anthony Smith, president of Magdalen College, Oxford (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News; Any Answers? 071-580 4444 from 12.30pm 2.30 Saturday Playthouse: Martin

580 4444 from 12:30pm
2.30 Saturday Playtouse: Martin
Conisby's Vengeance, Jeffery
Famoi's self-contained saquel
to last Monday's Black
Bartlemy's Treasure, in which
Martin Conisby (Steven Pacey)
becomes involved with more
pirates, battles, jealousy, and
misunderstandings (s)
4.00 News; Age to Age: The 100th 4.00 News; Age to Age: The 100th edition of the senes turns back

ine clock to 1892
4.30 Science Now reports on last week's meeting of the British Psychology Society
5.00 Costing the Earth: Rufus Bellamy searches for an eco-friendly Christmas tree the clock to 1892

5.25 Tea Junction: Patrick Hannan and guests take a sceptical look at the week's events 5.50 Shipping 5.55 Weather 6.00 News and Sports Round-Up 6.25 Week Ending: Satincal review of the week's news (s) (n) 6.50 The Locker Room: Tom Robinson presents the magazine for men (s)
7.20 Kaleldoscope tours the

Kaleidoscope tours the sites of lain Sinciair's novel-mprogress, Landor's Tower (s) progress, Landor's Tower (s)

7.50 The Boy with a Cart: Stephen
Fry's 1977 play is re-broadcast
to mark the playwinght's
eighty-lifth birthday yesterday,
it lets the story of Cuthman
(Kevin McNally), who bumped
his mother (Brenda Bruce) in a
cart from Cornwall to Sussex.
The play is proported.

The play is preceded by George Baker's brithday "gerland". The Holly Bernes Are Just Reddening (s) (r) 8.50 Conversation Piece CHOICE. The band leader Humphrey I yitelion benedia. Humphrey Lyttetton, himself no spring chicken, clearly believes that the best wine is often to be found in old bottles be found in old bottles
Otherwise, what is he doing
continuing to use the sazz
saxophonist Kathy Stobart, saxopnonist nativy oxobert, who will never see 60 again? Stobart, interviewed tonight by Sue MacGregor, has come a long way since making her professional debut as a tap-dancer whicatics, say haver dancer, vocalist, sax player and Gracie Fields and Donald Duck impressionist. She did not do all these things at the same time, but she sounds as it she could ellonlessly have

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done so, if pressed (s) (r)

9.20 Music in Mind (s)

9.50 Ten to Ten, led by the Rev
David Huit (s) 9.59 Weather

10.00 News 10.15 Open Mind (s)

10.45 Worlds Apart Grant Lathe
taks to Ray Brown about his
childhood in Carrada

11.00 Richard Balter Compares
Notes with collector John
Howson and archivist Melcolm
Tayfor on English folk songs Taylor on English folk songs

11.30 (5) (7)
11.30 Dear Diary (c) (r)
12.00-12.43am News, incl 12.20
Weather 12.33 Shapping 12.43
World Service (LW only)

PREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053ki-tz/285m;1089ki-tz/275m. FM-97 6-99.8 Radio 2: FM-88-90.2. Radio 3: FM-90.2-92.4. Radio 4: 198ki-tz/1515m; FM-92 6-99.8 S2.4-94.6. Radio 5: 693ki-tz/433m; 909ki-tz/330m. LBC: 1152ki-tz/261m; FM-97.3. Capital: 1548ki-tz/194m; FM-95.6. GLR; 1458ki-tz/206m; FM-94.9; World Service: MW 648ki-tz/463m. Classic FM: FM-100-102



Fighting the cause. Seeking the Cure.

4.00 The Dream Nachtice (1991): Coney Heim acquires a Porshe (33188797)
7.40 Entertainment Tonight (370616)
6.50 Stibling Rivelry (1993): Sexusi feros stamp (Kriste Alley (49819)
10.00 Cobrat (1985): Sylvester Stellone battles against a gang of biters (35638)
11.30 Delta Force 2 (1990): Chuck Norts stello feit feros (400 feet)

10.00 Cobrat (1985): Sylvester Stellone battles against a gang of biters (35638)

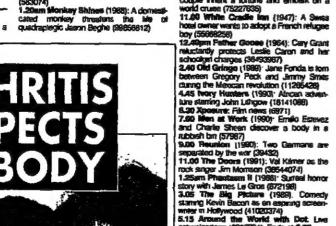


pain. And it's not just old people who suffer. Arthritis can

ARTHRITIS RESEARCH A Registered Charry

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11. 12.24 F. S. B. W. S.

BBC1

7.35 Film: In Name Only (1939, b/w). Drama starring Cary Grant as a man desperate to get out of an unhappy marriage. Directed by John Cromwell (3459136)

9.05 Good Morning Advent Calendar (s) (5161643)

9.05 Good Monting Advent Calendar (s) (5161643)
9.10 News and weather (5186952)
9.15 The Promise of his Glory. Pam Rhodes visits the United Methodist Church in Winchester, Hampshire (s) (5934827)
10.00 Country File with John Craven (9087198). Weles: Film: The Flame and the Arrow 11.25 See You Sunday 12.15-12.45 Down to Earth protracted musical based on H.G. Wells's Kipps. Directed by George Sidney (79302049)
12.45 Cartoon (11291117) 12.55 Weather (65488846)
1.00 News (11225310) 1.05 Joy to the World. Charity concert which takes its theme from Milton's Paradise Lost and Paradise Regaland, from the Albert Hall, in the presence of the Duchess of Kent, starring Anthony Andrews, Peter Bowles, Patricia Hodge, Geraldine James and Cliff Richard (s) (8954204)
2.00 EastEnders. Ormibus edition (r). (Ceefax) (s) (38371)
3.00 Eldorado (r). (Ceefax) (s) (4952)
3.30 Film: Prancer (1989). Charming seasonal tale about a young girl who finds an injured reindeer in the forest and nurses it back to health. Directed by John Hancock. (Ceefax) (353575)
5.10 The World Of Peter Rabbit and Friends. (Ceefax) (8021285)
5.35 The Clothes Show. The Christmae Roadshow visits Boston, Lincs (s) (116372)

6.00 Lifeline. Professor Heinz Wolff with an appeal on behalf of Remap GB (s) (356339)

6.10 News with Chris Lowe. Weather (336575)

Road 9.15 Our Roving Reporter (b/w)

6.25 Songs of Praise from St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle. (Ceefax) (s) (920594)
7.15 Last of the Summer Wine. (Ceefax) (s) (243049)
7.45 So Haunt Me. A Christmas special of the ghostly comedy series starring Mirlam Karlin. Yetta sees her new grandson. (Ceefax) (235020). Northern Ireland: The Hummingbird Tree 9.05 A Hard Road 9.15 Our Roying Reporter. Make.



Troubled by his son's friendship: Patrick Bergin (8.15pm)

8.15 The Hummingbird Tree

• CHOICE: Ian McDonald's novel of politics, race and young love in 1940s Trinidad comes to the screen in a sensitive adaptation which owes much to the natural performances of its three juvenile leads. Alan (Tom Beasley), the 12-year-old son of a white family, berriends two Indian children (Desha Penco and Sunit Y. Ramjitsingh) who work for his father (Patrick Bergin). This attempt to bridge the racial divide leads to tension and disapproval, particularly when Alan and the girl find the first stirrings of love. The personal story is played out against the background of political turmoil as elections from and Triniciad's non-whites get the vote. (Ceefax) (8331952)

9.35 Porridge. The 1975 Christmas special (r). (Ceefax) (727662). Northern Ireland: 9.20 Go For It

10.29 News with Michael Buerk. Weather (793407)

10.35 Everymen: Another Christmas

CHOICE: Jonathan Stedati's film explores how the corning of the testive season impinges on a corner of rural Gloucestershire. His approach is gentle and reflective, much in keeping with the pace of country life. Town dwellers for whom the pre-Christmas period means traffic jams, overcrowded shops and short tempers can only means traffic jams, overcrowded shops and short tempers can only took or with envy. A woman brings a pensioner, living alone, his Christmas meal on wheels. At the Painswick community for young mentally handicapped adults they are putting on a nativity play. In a converted cowshed a retired vicar leads a group in quiet contemplation. And an artist designs a special Christmas card. Stedall has no great point to make, beyond showing how Christmas is seen differently by different people. It is for the viewer to decide who are the best Christman, (Caeriax) (768204)

11.25 Golff, the final round of the Johnnie Walker World champlonship from the Tryall Club in Jameica (329594)

12.55am Tanhalyan (f) (7072599) 1.35 Weather (7298889). Northem Ireland: 1.40-1.50 A Hard Road

BBC2

7.00 Felix the Cat. Animation (8480223) 7.15 Playdays at the Christmas Tree Stop (r) (2109440) 7.40 Smoggles (r) (3401914) 8.05 Teiling Tales. (Ceelax) (s) (5991643) 8.20 Orville and Cuddles (r) (2370759) 8.25 Bitsa. Recycling ideas (r) (s) (5902759) 8.45 Gentle Ben. Children's drama. (Ceefax) (r) (1910117) 9.10 The Wetter the Bettar. Garne show (s) (6507469) 9.35 Thundercets (r) (1746865) 10.00 Kevin and Co. (Cer (9078440) 10.25 Blue Peter Omnibus (r) (s) (1902681) 11.15 The O-Zone. A review of the success of Take That (s) (2088914) 11.30 Shakespeare — The Animated Tales: Twelfth Night (r) (s)

(1223)12.00 Thunderbirds. Gerry Anderson's classic pupper series. A small boy's Christmas is threatened (f). (Ceelax) (8384643)

12.50 The Invaders. Vintage science-fiction series starring Roy Thinnes (r) (1001488) 1.40 Tex Avery. Animated fun (21818196)

2.00 Regional Parliamentary Programmes (5989). Northern Ireland: A

werV a thiw moon

2.30 International Showjumping. The Modern Security Systems Christmas Puissance from the Grand Hall, Olympia (7108662) 3.20 Kullervo. As part of the festival of Scandinavian culture, Sir Colin Davis conducts the London Symphony Orchestra and the University of Helsinkl Choir in a rare performance of Sibelius's symphonic epic 4.50 Rugby Special. Chris Rea Introduces the conclusion of the ADT Divisional Championship with matches between London and the North and the South West and the Midlands (s) (8219117). Northern



Ireland: Interprovincial championship games; Wales: Rugby

Social climber: John Sessions with Sue Roderick (5.45pm)

5.45 Life With Eliza. First in a 12-part comedy drama series about a stuffy Edwardian clerk with ideas above his station, and his long-cuffering wife. With John Sessions and Sua Roderick. (Ceefax) (382488)

5.55 Ski Sunday. David Vine introduces action from Slovenia, where Alberto Tombe begins his defence of his world statom title (118730) 8.25 Film: A Christmas Story (1983). Nosteigic view of Christmas through the eyes of a nine-year-old boy growing up in suburban America in the forties. Directed by Bob Clark. (Ceefax) (1938466)
7.55 The Realms of the Russian Bear. In his final journey, Nikolai Drozdov, visits Karnchetka in the far east of Russia where he

Drozdov, visits Karnchetka in the fer east of Russia where he encounters both Arctic and sub-tropical landscapes, giant volcances and the Russian bear. (Ceefax) (s) (607952)

8.45 The Cry: The Cry of Gabriel, Keely Hodgson's haunting percussion piece for Advent. With Ruth Cowley as Mary and percussionists Evelyn Giennie, Gregory Knowles, Rachel Gledhilliand Cary Kettel (607440)

9.00 Film: Crossing Delancey (1988). Romentic comedy starring Arry (riving as a Jewish bookstore manager who discovers that her grandmother is trying to pair her off with the boss of a pickle factory. Directed by Joan Micklin Silver. (Ceefax) (81617391)

10.35 Fanny Business: A Question of Tasta, An exploration into the bawdy, offensive side of humour, with clips from live shows (486285)

11.35 Film: Frenzy (1972, b/w) starring Jon Finch and Barry Foster. A series of brutal murders terrifies the women of London. Alfred Hitchcock's last British film, notable for its gruesome humour and sexual content (340925). Ends at 1.35am

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ITY LONDON

6.00 TV-am (5320223)

9.25 The Disney Club Richard Orford, Andrea Boardman and Paul Hendy are joined by Take That (s) (2608914) 10.45 Link. The cornedy cabaret trio of disabled women perform and talk

about their work. (Oracle) (8085932)

11.00 Morning Worship from Wesley Methodist Church in Plymouth 12.00 Encounter. The story of a Dublin nurse and former nun who set up

an organisation to help Aids victims in the sharity towns around Sao Paulo in Brezil (69310) 12.30 LWT News Weekend (95223)

1.00 News with Dermot Murnaghan. Weather (40003440)
1.10 The Smurfs Christmas Special. Cartoon adventures of the little blue creatures (r) (93080594) 1.40 Bullseye. Darts and general knowledge quz with Jim Bowen (37164914)

2.10 The London Match, Ian St John introduces live coverage of the match between Newcastle United and Milwall from St James's Park. Commentator Brian Moore is joined by Republic of Ireland manager Jack Charlton who gives his thoughts on the game. There is also a report on today's London derby between Bremtord and West Ham at Griffin Park (s) (97385556)

4.40 Baywatch. The perfectly formed lileguards of Los Angeles County parade the beaches in search of damsels in distress. This week they have the unerwable task of dealing with dissolving bikinis (r)

5.35 Wish You Were Here . . ? Judith Chalmers searches Pans for bargains; Jimmy Tarbuck tees off in the Algarye; and John Carter visits a new theme park in the heart of Africa (r). (Oracle) (s)

(857117)
6.05 News with Dermot Murnaghan. Weather (221204) 6.16 LWT news (228117)

 6.16 Highway. In this Christmas special, Sir Harry Secombe visits the Channel Islands and is joined by Roy Castle, singer Gilbert O'Sullivan and Bargarac star John Nettles. (Oracle) (154515)
 7.15 Second Thoughts starring James Bolam and Lynda Bellingham. Faith and Bill decide to move to a smaller home, but Hannah and Joe have other ideas. Bill is back in his old job on the newspaper but le in for a shock when he discovers who the new editor is. (Oracle)

(s) (238117)
7.45 A Touch of Frost, Excellent police senes, adapted by Richard Harris from the books by R.D. Wingheld, slaming David Jason as a cynical detective. In the last of the three stones an MP's son is

cynical detective. In the last of the three stories an MP's son is involved in a hit-and-run accident; and a police officer disappears. With Sue Johnston. (Oracle) (s) (483310) 9.45 News with Dermot Murnaghan. Weather (872374) 10.05 The New Statesman. Satirical comedy starring Rik Mayall as Alan B'Stard, the scheming, ruthless politican. This week he searches for Maxwell's missing millions while his colleague Piers (Michael Troughton) ships aid to Bosnia at his own expense. With guest appearances by Don Henderson and John Challis, who plays Boycie in Ordy Fools and Horses (Oracle) (518643) 10.35 The South Bank Show: Jimi Hendrix. To mark the titheth enginees of the outlarist's birth. Melvin Bracon presents a proble

enniversary of the guitarist's birth, Metvyn Bragg presents a profile first shown in 1989 (r) (2967372)

11,50 Cue the Music. The Police on tour (440681)

12.55am The ITV Chart Show (r) (s) (4975792)
2.00 Film: Amazons (1984). Slick and sitly story staming Madeline Stowe as a doctor who discovers a secret women's organisation

determined to seek political power. Directed by Paul Michael Glase 3.45 Out of Limits. Daring sporting action (77553131)
4.00 Pick of the Week. Regional television highlights presented by Anna

Walker (89247)
4.30 Memories of 1970-1991. Archive film from 1983 (65976) 5.30 ITN Morning News (33063). Ends at 6.00



Profile of the man and his music: Jimi Hendrix (10.35pm)

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Trans World Sport (r) (61914) 7.00 Take Five for younger viewers (r) (2111285) 7.25 Laurel and Hardy duo (r) (7406285) 7.35 Little Wizards. Magical canoon (9406469) 8.00 Sandokan. Exploits of the pirate prince (64866) 8.30 Wish Kid. Cartoon (1900730) 8.55 Tintin. Animaled adventures of Hergé's classic series (2277662) 9.25 Laurel and Hardy (5174117) 9.30 Dennis (8636285)

9.45 Flipper. Adventures of the friendly dolphin (851056)
10.15 Film: Sword of Monte Cristo (1951, b/w). George Montgomery stars in a B movie version of Alexander Dumas's tale, directed by

Maurice Geraghty (438575)

11.45 Little House on the Prairie. The trials and inbulations of a closeknit Kansas plains family (7396933) 1.10 Film: Passport to Pimilico (1949, b/w)

 CHOICE: The paradox of this wonderful Ealing comedy is that it is both rooted in its age, the post war Britain of bombed sites and austenty, and has a timeless appeal. For contemporary audiences T.E.B. Clarke's ingenious script about an area of London discovering it was part of Burgundy and secading from the United Kingdom brilliantly caught the popular mood. Here was a chance to escape rationing and bureaucracy and if, like all dreams, it had to come to an end, the freedom was great while it lested. The film now is a period piece in the best sense, while offering a rait of enduring jokes and, perhaps, an oblique comment on the dangers of closer ties with Europe. Stanley Holloway and Margaret Rutherford head a cast of British comedy stalwarts and the director is Henry Comelius, who went on to make Genevieve (3869407)

2.40 Film: The Tittled Thunderbott (1952). Another Ealing comedy

about a group of villagers determined to run their own rall service after the government decides to close their branch line With Stanley Holloway. Directed by Charles Criction (88715846)

4.15 Transformations. The tirst of four daily examinations of man's

relationship to the world around him (8722730)
5.10 News and weather (6481579)
5.15 High Interest: South Africa's Black Economy This programme 5.15 Fight Interest: South Arrica's black and white business leaders, the government and ANC politicians ways in which the black community can achieve economic power (9241759)
 6.20 The Miraculous Mellops Australian fanlasy senes (285)
 6.30 The Cosby Show. American family comedy show (Telefext) (865)



le anybody there? Nasa calling extra-terrestrials (7.00pm)

7.00 Equinox; ET. Please Phone Earth

 CHOICE: The Channel 4 science strand rounds off its current senes in typically accessible fashion with an account of attempts to make contact with life in outer space, assuming that there is such a thing. The programme is prompted by the faunch of a ten-year project by Nasa, the American space agency, which involves proking up signals on two huge radio telescopes. The project is called Seti, or Search for Extratemestrial Intelligence, and is the most advanced attempt yet to find the real ET. Some scientists think the awarusq attempt yet to find the real ET Some scientists fillick the idea a waste of money, white others feel that the mysteries of the outer atmosphere are best kept that way But making contact with alien beings is an intriguing prospect, for which science fiction writers have long whetted the appetite. If the pun can be pardoned, watch this space. (Teletext) (8865)

8.00 Poetry in Motion. In the final programme, Book Prizewinning myessi A.S. Bwatt exemines the postic treatment of met and resth

novelist A.S. Byatt examines the poetic treatment of grief and death. Teletext) (8391)

8.30 American Football. The featured game is the Washington Redskins at the Philadelphia Eagles (53778) 10.00 Film: The Man With Two Brains (1983). Dati comedy starting

Steve Martin es a surgeon who finds love with the disembodied brein of a female murder victim. Directed by Carl Reiner (257759) 11.40 European Film Awards. Antoine De Caunes presents highlights of the awards from Babelsberg in Germany (698391)
 12.25em Film: Opera do Malandro. Brazilian musical fantasy tracing the

exploits of a profiteer and pimp through the lower achelons of Rio life as Brazil teeters on the brink of joining the second world war. Directed by Ruy Guerra. In Portuguese with English subtitles (970112). Ends at 2-25

NK GOLD

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

As London succept: 12.30 Gerdening Time (1577198) 12.50-1.00 Angila News (11283198) 1.10 Pint: The Prince and the Pauper (50411402) 3.25 Baywalch (82039049) 5.05 Bulseye (8047543) 8.35-6.05 Animal Country (857117)

Time (3887579) 1.10 Northam Electric Arts Awards (5878223) 2.10 Highway to Heaven (4718961) 3.00 Wish You Were Here.? (9020) 3.30 Animal Country (753) 4.00 Take the High Road Special (594) 4.30 Bullarye (778) 5.00-8.05 Scotsport (1602730) 11.50 [778] 5.06-5.05 Scotsport (1902/30) 11.59 Prisoner Cell Block H (680372) 12.40 Ctriz Night (5504268) 1.10 Motorsport Special [5203792] 1.48 Film: Special Delivery (120599) 3.30 Pots of the Week (40753063) 4.00 ITV Charl Show (8332082) 4.50 Shedy Tales (28845781) 5.00-6.30 Jobinder 27552(20)

CENTRAL As London except: 12.20-1.00 Gardening Time (3587579) 1.10 Earthfile (1121562) 1.15 Return to Kestmir (342750) 1.46 Biggin Hill International Ar Fair (116556) 2.45 The Central Misch Live (35255556) 5.00 Bullseye HTV WEST

HTV WEST As London except 12.30-1.00 The Nature of Things (3507579) 1.10 Show White Christness Special (5946255) 2.05 Children's stem; (4522407) 2.35 Wresting (7101759) 3.25 Film: The Night We Dropped a Clanger (5203049) 5.05 Eufleys (5947543) 5.35-6.05 Animal County (557117) 2.00 Film: Espionage in Liebon (491599)

TSW

As London succept: 12.30-1.90 TSW
Farming Week (3687579) 1.10 Jack Thompson Down Linder (83080544) 1.40 Off the
Hook (37184914) 2.20 Film: What a Way to
Gol (83607372) 4.35 Bulleye (8775:29)
5.05 Cobblestones, Cottages and Castles
(847543) 5.35-6.95 Animal County
(857117) 11.50 Prisoner: Cell Block H
(840372) 12.40 Cuz Night (5504265) 1.19
Motorsport Special (5203792) 1.40 Film:
Special Delivery (120599) 3.30 Pick of the
Week (40753053) 4.00 The ITV Chart Show
(1141204) 4.50 Shedy Teles (53238402)
5.00-5.30 Jobinder (2757402)

As London except 12.39 TVS News (11207778) loftowed by The Entertainers (Bob Monichouse) (8432420) 1.19 Snow

TYNE TEES

I YNE 1 EEES

As London except 12.25-1.00 Wild World the East (6412575) 1.18-2.10 Disrey's Al-Star Cornedy Cacus (5676223) 4.40 On Location with Heartheet (5664440) 3.05 Animal Country (6947543) 5.25-6.05 Perents (657117) 11.50 Film: Night Genes (904994) 1. Outs Night (62750) 1.30 Pick of the Week (21150) 2.00 Zans Disperson (759686) 2.05 Film: Pyer Ka Devte (63419112) 4.30-8.30 Jobinder (66975)

ULSTER As London emapt: 12.30-1.00 Gardening Time (3587579) 1.10 Ferming Uster (S308054) 1.40 Resing (S7164914) 2.10 Film: Tempest (1998962) 4.35 Bullsays (8776285) 5.05-6.05 Coronsion Street Film: Temposa (19689902) 4.35 Dissiye (8775285) 5.05-6.05 Coronation Street (9489594) 11.50 Grand Opera House Concerts (687285) 12.40 Quc. Night (5503637) 1.10 Motorsport Special (5202063) 1.40 Film. Special Delivery (110112) 3.30 Pick of the Week (91062) 4.00 The (ITV Chart Show (5836082) 4.50 Shady Tales (58252082) 5.00-6.30 Jobinder (76824)

YORKSHIRE

12.45 Film: Demetrata and the Gladio-tors (97889) 2.40 The ITV Chart Show (3847957) 3.40 Cus the Music (\$487898) Film: Pete's Dragon (97845989) 5.05 Buse-4.40-5.30 Job/Inder'92 (2757402) White Christmas Special (2501983) 2.00 The Adversaries of Black Beauty (725) 2.30 (11283196) 1.10 Wonderful World of Disney (894289) 5.05 Buse-eya (6947543) 5.35-6.05 Animal Country (8961010) 2.55 Your Match: Grimsby Town v (8861010) 2.55 Your Metart: Grimathy Town V (8861010) 2.55 Your Metart: Grimathy Town V Derby County (78473952) 5.06 Animal County Awerds (8847343) 5.35-6.05 Calen-der (857117) 11.45 Film: Night Games (804594) 1.09 Cutz Night (82150) 1.30 Pick (7586860) 2.08 Film: Pyer Ka Devis (83419112) 4.30-5.55 Joinfinder (85976)

S4C
Starter 7.00 Take 5 (2111285) 7.25 Laurel and Hardy (7406285) 7.25 Little Wizards (9406489) 8.00 Sandolan (64065) 8.00 Wish Kid (1900730) 8.55 Train (2377882) 9.25 Laurel and Hardy (5174117) 9.30 Dernis (6306285) 9.45 Mitaculous Mellope (651056) 10.15 Heopy Days (706907) 10.45 Voyage to the Sottom of the Sea (849872) 11.45 Little House on the Prairie (7396833) 1.10 Sierad Plaen (44021398) 1.30 Film: The Stooges (8732372) 3.25 Equinox (3412407) 4.25 Desmond's (3075070) 4.25 Destroid Canu Dechrau (3437643) 9.55 Dermod Ar Y Sul (318420) 9.50 Addient (267407) 9.55 American Footbell (6756020) 11.20 Pales (637643) 11.40 The Prisoner (717885) 12.35 High Interest (8443402) 1.20 Ciosa

As London except: 12.25 The Littlest Hobo

SATELLITE

S.00em Hour of Power (25136) 7.00 Fun Faciory (7840953) 11.30 The World Tomor-row (51339) 12.00 Lost in Space (36504) 1.00pm UK Top 40 (12914) 2.00 Trapper John (48643) 3.00 Eight is Enough (22627) 4.00 Hotel (34652) 5.00 All American Westing (3489) 6.00 Growing Paris (1759) 6.30 The Sempsone (8399) 7.00 The Simpsone (4117) 7.30 21 Jump Street (65285) 8.30 2000 Majbu Road: First of a three-part mint series, starring Use Harriman and Draw Barrymore (59049) 10.30 Enter-terment Tomport (17539) 11.30 Fashion TV (44189) 12.00 Pages from Stytes SKY NEWS

4.00pm State Fair (1962): Musical steming Pat Boone and Bobby Derin (7488) 6.00 Butterflies Are Frise (1972): Drama about a bind boy with a possessive mother. Staming Edward Albert (43848) 8.00 The Adventures of Busician

9.50 Alice Dosen't Live Here Anymore (1974): Widow Ellen Butstyn stants a new life as a singer (288489). Ends at 11.45 THE MOVIE CHANNEL 6.35am Asterix and the Big Fight (1988):

8.00 The Side Game (1932, b/w); Hechoods 8.00 The Sidn Glame (1932, p/w): Figchoods drame in which Iwo families foud over land rights. Starling Edmund Gwenn (38845) 9.30 Tailes of Hoftmen (1951): A poet seeks the stemail woman (48957730) 11.40 Virgin Island (1958). A writer quits the rat race. Starling Sidney Potter (5254058) 1.10pm Hillibilitys Im a. Haumbed House (1967). Allustral comment, 600089869. 1.10ppx Hilbirtys in a Haumind House (1957). Muscal correcty (90028562) 2.00 Stella (1989): Bette Midler rases baughter Thru Alvarado (65117) Stella Solomon (1985): Drew Barrymore bables with an evil toymaker in the musical adventure (32109) 7.00 Bird on a Wire (1990). Acton-correcty starring Mel Gibson as an FBI warress on the run with Golde Hawn (83575). starting was Goodle Hawn (83575) run with Goldte Hawn (83575) a nn. Guiller by Suspicion (1990); Film

9.00 Guilty by Suspicion (1990): Film director Robert De Niro is accussed of undirector Robert De Niro is accussed of un-American activities (72310) 11.00 Scenes from a Mall (1990). Cornedy starring Bette Midler and Woody Allen 95 sperring pertines (769633) 12.35am Milister Froat (1990). Psychologi-cal Uniter starring Jeff Coldobum as a serial Maler syling to convince Alar Bales that he is the devil vicamate (589044). A private eye searches for missing women (4955746). Ends at 3.50

SKY SPORTS 6.30am Fishing the West (42074) 7.00 The Little League (23117) 9.00 Jack High (89846) 10.00 Goals on Sunday (35952) 11.00 WWF All American Wissiling (22486) 12.00 Super Sunday — Preview (55991) 1.30pm Super Sunday Crystal Palace v Leads United (64285) 3.30 Super Sunday — Talkback (49861) 4.30 The Club Show (1778) 8.00 Netrusiers (5865) 5.30 Fishing the West (5730) 8.00 Sunday of the Palace (2643) 6.30 High Five (6223) 7.00 Muscle Night Special (14489) 9.00 The Bg League (12552) 11.00 FA Pranier League Footbal Crystal Palace v League (24632)

FM Stereo and NW. 4.00mm Neale James (FM only until 6.00meto 7.00 Gary Davies 9.50 Dave Lee Trave 12.30pm Pick of the Pops. Top 20 charts of 1960, 1973 and 1985 2.30 Rockine: Lionel Riche 4.00 The Complete UK Top 40 7.00 Pata Tong's Essential Selection 8.00 Anne Nightingale's Request Show 10.00 Gary Davies (FM only from 12.00) 1.00-4.00mm Lynn Parsons (FM only)

FM Sterac 4.00mm Berbera Sturgeon 7.00 Don Macken says Good Morning Sunday 9.05 John Sachs presents Much More Neusc 12.00

News and sport on the hour until Midday, 8.00mm World Service: World News; 6.08 News About Britain; 8.18 Caribbaan Magazine

Sportsdest 7.15 Is Not 10 8,00 Christines Allogo 9.00 Box 13.20 Cab Gless (f) 10.10
Across the Line, Inc 11.80 Sport 12.80-12.10am News, Sport

All times in Galft. 4,30ato World Business
Review 4.40 Travel and Weether News 4.45
Programmes in German 5.20 News Summery;
Programmes in German 5.20 News Summery 10.00 Newsdesk
News 6,15 Lebta from America 6.30 Programmes in Pronch 8.59 Weether 7.00 Newsdesk
News 6,15 Lebta from America 6.30 Programmes in Pronch 8.59 Weether 7.00 Newsdesk
News 6,15 Lebta from America 6.30 Programmes in Pronch 8.59 Weether 7.00 Newsdesk
7.20 From Our Own Correspondent 7.50 Write On 8.00 World News 8.00 Word of end 8.15
Classics with Kay 8.00 World News 8.05 World Business Review 9,15 Short Story; Christines
Action 10.30 in Praise of God 11.00 Newsdesk 11.29 Travel News 11.30 SBC English 11.45
News and Shish Press Review in German Middley News Summery 12.01 pm Play of the
Week: The Write Carestion 1.00 Newshorou 2.00 News Summery 2.01 if Your World Sennes
Phone-In 2.30 Anything Goes 3.00 World News 3.15 Concert Hah 4.00 World News 4.09
News About British 4.16 BBC English 4.29 News Headines in French 4.30 Programmes in French
8.00 Newsdesk 8.30 Programmes in German 8.00 World News 8.09 Folk in Britain 8.25
World of Fath 8.20 Europe Toring's 3.00 Newsbur 10.00 News 10.45 Sports Roundup
11.00 News 11.45 World Business Review 11.15 Classics with Key Middleght Newsdesk
12.30am in Praise of God 1.00 News 1.01 Dirossars Alve 1.45 Jerone Kern Among Friends
2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 Composer of the Morth. Si Michael Toppet 3.00 News 3.00 News About Britain 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 Anything Goes 4.00 News 4.15 On Screen
6.00em 3 arah Lucas 9.00 Classic Romance

Magazine (49925) 8.00 Boung (91486) 18.00 Index Yachung (94556) 11.00-12.00 Hostor (6198952) 10.00 Music Videos Euroscores (86049) (8568204) 2.30-2.00em Top Five (98518) SCREENSPORT

6.00mm Sesing (6:1440) 6.30 NFL in Review (599372) 6.50 South American Soccer (859372) 6.50 South American Soccer (859375) 8.50 South American Soccer (859375) 8.50 South (817186) 10.20 Foothal Rezal (8902489) 11.20 Soung (46116223) 1.00pm Snooker (73136) 2.00 Sesketball (96914) 4.00 Snooker (55556) 8.00 Johnnie Weiter Golf (6513730) 5.65 World Cup Sking (97772339) 8.00 Johnnie Weiter Golf (770739) 8.00 Johnnie Weiter Golf (770739) 8.00 Johnnie Weiter Golf (770736) 8.00 Johnnie Weiter Golf (770736) 8.00 Johnnie (7054) 11.00 PSA Bowling (34223) 12.00-1.00mn Pro Kich (34856)

6.00em Seiling (81440) 6.30 NFL in Review (589372) 6.50 South American Societies (8836873) 8.50 Sking (1817186) 10.20 Football Barcol (8902469) 11.20 Swing (811623) 1.00em Rooteet (73138) 2.00 Basketball (96914) 4.00 Shooker (65556) 8.50 Chockya Challenga (2543759) 8.30 Ranzaghoris (269173) 8.00 Johnnie Welser Golf (6513730) 8.50 Johnnie Welser Golf (6513730) 8.00 Johnnie Welser Golf (7613730) 8.00 Johnnie Welser Golf (7616020) 8.00 February (76160 6.00em Rainbow (10507001) 6.15 Chor

RADIO 3

6.55am Weather
7.00 Sunday Morning Concert:
Ireland (A London Overture:
BBC Concert Orchestra under
Ashley Lawrence); Arthur
Butterworth (Green Wind: BBC
Concert Orchestra under
Lawrence); Arnold (Larch
Trees: BBC Concert Orchestra
under Malcolm Arnold); Mozari.
(Symphony, Overture, No 32 in
G, K318: BBC Philharmonic
Orchestra under Jean-Claude

100

Orchestra under Jean-Claude Casadesus): Stravinsky (Suita, The Firebird, 1919: BBC Ine rireoror, 1918: BBC
Philharmonic Orchestra under
Jerzy Maksymiuk): Bourgeols
(Variations and Commentaries
for String Orchestra: BBC
Concert Orchestra under Concert Cortesta under Ashley Lawrence; Kelly (Divertissement: BBC Concert Orchestra under Lawrence); Respighi (Pines of Rome: BBC Philharmonic Orchestra under Sir Edward Downes)

9.05 Brian Kay's Sunday Morning: Delus (Sleigh Ride); Artist of the Week Andrew Parrott conducts John Foster (White Shaphards Watched): Eric Coates (Cinderella Fantasy); Liszt (Welhnachts-baum); Gossec (Christmas Suita); Beethoven (Three Marches for military band); MacCum (The Land of the Mountain and the Flood) Britten (A Hymn to the Virgin): John Tavener (The Lamb): Haydin (Sinfonia Concentante in B (lat, H I 105); 10.39 Composer of the Week preview. Ravel (Menuet sur le nom de Haydn; A la mantère de Borodin; A la mantère de Chabrier); Borodin (in the Steppes of Central Asia); Handel (Italian Duet No 19,

Handel (Italian Duet No 19; Fronda leggiera e mobile): Walcheufet (Watz, Roses de Noël); Darke (In the Bisek Midwinter); Cornellus (The Three Kings); Bach (Prelude and Fugue No 1 in C, BWV 846); Pachelbel (Canon and Gigue in D); Suk (A Fairy Tali Suite) 12.00 Spirit of the Age, with George Pratt. Andrew Parrott and Hugh Keyte discuss the New Oxford Book of Carols New Oxford Book of Carols

nd introduce seasonal music

COMPILED BY SUSAN THOMSON AND GILLIAN MAXEY TELEVISION CHOICE PETER WAYMARK/RADIO CHOICE PETER DAVALLE

The second secon

1.05 Table Talk's History of the World: Fritz Spiegl cooks a few of Beethoven's favourite dishes for Leslie Forbes
1.20 Howells Centenary Concert: 88C Symphony Chorus and Orchestra under Stephen Jackson, with Andrew Murgatroyd, tenor, perform Startford (Magnificat in 8 fat); Howells (Concerto for Strings; Stabat Mater)
3.05 Brittennia Triumphans: Parley of Instruments under Peter Holman and Mark Caudia perform English consort music by Peter Philips (f)
3.35 Berg: Sonata, Op 1 (Peter Donohoe, plano); String Quartet, Op 3; Lyric Suite (Lindsay Quartet) (f)
4.40 Haydin Betore and After Parls: The first of two programmes of Haydin and peter and peter

programmes of Haydn symphonies from the early late 1780s. Hanover Band

under Roy Goodmen perform Symptomy No 77 in B flat; Symptomy No 91 in E flat 5.30 The Hunting of the Smartc. opropriorly NO 97 of E flat

The Hunting of the Snaric
Michael Bakewell examines
the history and various
interpretations of Lawis
Carroll's nonsense poem, and
introduces his new dramatised
persion with Alan Bennett as version, with Alan Bennett as the narrator (r) 6.30 Josquin Achucarro, piano,

plays Beethoven (Variations in F. Op 34; Soreda in E. Op 109; Brahms (Four Pieces, Op 119) (1)

119) (f)
7.30 Sunday Play: Design for Living. Cheryl Campbell, Alex Jennings and Michael Kitchen star in Noël Coward's comady of saxual manners (f) of sexual manners (r)
9.30 Beathoven: Incidental music,
Egmont, Ahl Perfido; Overture,
Leonora No 3; Choral Fantasy
in C minor (RIAS Chamber
Choir; Bertin Philhamoric
Orchestra under Claudio
Abbado)
44 (R) Beat in Care Time: The third

11.00 Music in Our Time: The third Music In Our Time: The Inford of four programmes from the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival. The Australian ansemble Alpha Centauri under Roger Woodward, with Jacopo Scalfi, callo, performs lands Xenakis (Echange; Mists; Aksa: Waarg; Dikthas; Epicycles) Epicycles) 12.30-12,35am News

RADIO 4

(s) Stereo on FM
5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00
News Briefing, incl 6.03
Weather 6.10 Prelude (s) 6.30
News; Morning Has Broken.
Including Balls on Sunday
from Chelsea Old Church,
London (s) 6.55 Weather 7.00
News 7.10 Sunday Papers
7.15 On Your Farm: Oliver
Walston meets Sandy Boyd,
manager of the Chatsworth
Farm Shop 7.40 Sunday 7.55
Weather 8.00 News 8.10
Sunday Papers
8.50 Norman Williss speaks for the
Week's Good Cause about the
Coronary Prevention Group, a

Coronary Prevention Group, a charity committed to reducing the death rate from coronary heart disease by 1,000 a week 8.55 Weather

9.00 News 9.10 Sunday Papers 9.15 Letter from America (r) 9.30 Morning Service from Wesley Chapei, London 10.15 The Archers: Omnibus (s) 11.15 News Stand, with Sebastian Scott (s) 11.30 Pick of the Week, with Chris

Serie (f)

12.15pm Desert Island Discs: Sue Lawley's castaway is the designer Paul Smith (s) 12.55 1.00 The World This Weekend, with Nick Clarke
2.00 News; Gardeners' Question Time: Members of the Gerstang and District

Gardening Club in Lancashire put their questions to the experts. With Clay Jones (s) 2.30 Christmas Spirits: The Haunted Man and the Ghost's Bergein ● CHOICE: Jill Brooke has respectfully dramatised Dickens's Christmas Book in Dickens's Christmas Book in which somowhal mamories and happy memories are given equal weight in the business of coping with the present and setting a course for the future. We have heard this production before. But, as in A Christmas Carof, which is repeated on Christmas day the settinus. Christmas day, the serious lessons Dickens teaches in The Haunted Man are an

anticlote to that enjoyment of

Christmas that depends on bodzy office parties, television movies and plastic Sentas (f)
3,15 Pat Holby's Christmas
Wish, by F. Sout Fitzgerald.
Hollywood, Christmas 1942: a down-at-heel screenwriter is leading for a pricede (c).

cown-st-heel screenwriter is locking for a miracle (s)

3.30 The Radio Programme:
Laurie Taylor reviews the seasonal turkeys (s)

4.00 News; Analysis (r)

4.47 Treasure Islands: Michael Rosen presents the last in the series from Bury St Edmunds

5.00 Coastiline: Cliff Michaelmore hads for Lymnouth on the first stage of his journey along the north Devon coast (s) (r)

1.30 Poetry Pleaset John
Habgood, the Archbishop of York, chooses his favourite poem (s) 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Waather

10 Six O'Clock News

5 Feedback (**)

Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
8.15 Feedback (f)
6.30 Europhile (f)
7.00 The Best of Fear on 4: The
Snownen Kleing, by J.C.W.
Brook, A mother is afraid of
her children's fescination with
an eyeless snownen. With
Imeica Staunton (s) (f)
7.30 Poolshelf myleus. Innstituti

Imeičia Staunton (s) (r)
7.30 Bookshelf reviews Jonathan
Aycliffe's ghost story, Whispers
In the Deric, and discusses
time in liction (s) (r)
8.30 Punters (r)
8.30 Reading Aloud: American
Journals. Clive Merrison reads
from the journals of Albert
Camus, written in 1946 and
1949, when the French wher
travelled to the United States
and South America (s) and South America (s) 9.00 The Natural History

9.00 The Natural History
Programme (r)
9.30 Special Assignment (r) 9.58
Weather 10.00 Naws
10.15 With Great Pleasure: Hank
Wangford presents his choice
of writing while on bur with the
Lost Cowboys (s)
11.90 In Committee
11.30 Seeds of Faith: A Season
Under Siege. Canon John
Young, York Diocesan
Everngeist, with his reflections
for Advent (s)

Evangelist, with his reflections for Advent (s) 12.00-12.43am News, incl 12.20 Weather 12.33 Shipping 12.43 World Service (LW only) FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m;1089kHz/275m; FM-97.6-99.8.
Radio 2: FM-88-90.2. Radio 3: FM-90.2-92.4. Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m; FM-92.4-94.8. Radio 5: 663kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. LBC: 1152kHz/261m; FM-97.3. Capital: 1548kHz/194m; FM-95.8. GLR: 1459kHz/206m; FM-94.8; World Service: MW 649kHz/463m. Classic FM: FM-100-102.

werky-four hour news service

SKY MOVIES+ SKY MOVIES+

8.00am Showcase (36952)
8.00 Supermon's Daugitiar (1990): A leenager does not want to emulate har accessful mother (96285)
9.00 A Town's Revenge (1989): A woman returns to her home town (34972)
10.00 A Little Piece of Heaven (1991): An orphan starts an orphanage (29575)
12.00 End of the Line (1997): Relwayment steel a virtage engine (53846)
2.00pm Zone Troopcars (1986): Science-lictle comedy (67488)
4.00 Born to Ride (1991): John Stamos trains the Cavalry to ride motorbies (90440)
5.30 Xposums: Firm news (9914)
1.00 Reposesesed (1990): Parody of The Econolist Starring Linds Blair (5949)
10.00 Geodifelies (1990): Martin Scorcese's gangster drama starring Rey Liotta and Pobert De Nito (97384020)
12.25am Revenge (1993): Kevin Costner and Anthory Quinn ster as meta in love (24217745)
2.30 Milurder in Milastestigal (1990): American call rights clarae (911824)
4.10 Blood Oath (1990): Jepanese officers are med for very orines. Starring Bryan Brown (819824). Ende at 6.00
SKY MOVIES GOLD

SKY MOVIES GOLD

EUROSPORT 8.00mm Trans World Sport (36827) 8.00 Euroscores (3020) 9.30 Cross County Staring (3604) 11.30 American Bosing (97440) 1.30pm Cross County Athletos (60827) 2.30 Indoor Yecthing (373827) 5.00 Euroscores Megazina (5036914) 5.05 Cross County Staing (1700117) 8.30 Speedskeping (84199) 7.30 Judo (23223) 8.30 Euroscores

7.00pm The Vintage Years: Desmond Campgion, 2.00pm Benny Green; 3.00 Alan Del with Sounds Easy: 4.00 Sing Something Seasonal; 6.00 Charlie Chester 7.00 Richard Baker presents Melodies for You 6.30 Sunday Half Hour 9.00 A 4.00 John Terrett with Night Pilce

6.30 Weekend Edition 9.30 Thrin 10.00 Johnile Walker With The AM Alternative Orrigina.

11.30 Fantasy Footbal League 12.30 pm Sunday Brunch 1.30 Sunday Sport: Premier League and First Division flootbal, rugby league; show jumping and horse racing 8.00 The Mark Steel Schutton (9.50 America Tak, 10.50 Witters: Weekly 6.30 Education Melaters (9.7.00 Sportsgeek 7.15 Le Noël Top 8.00 Christmas Alropop 9.00 Box 13 9.30 Cub Class (r) 10.10 Across the Line, Incl 11.90 Sport 12.00-12.10 am News; Sport

CLASSIC FM
6.00cm Sarah Lucas 9.00 Classic Pomence
12.00 CD Requests with Henry Kelly 2.00cm
Authentic Performance 8.00 Classic FM Concent 10.00 Sunday Night Out at Smolleniky's
11.00 Contemporary Classics 12.00-8.00cm André Leon

One more shopping day till Christmas.



Whatever gifts you've yet to find this Christmas, the one thing you can't buy is extra time. So it's great to know that Selfridges is open on Sunday 20th, from 12 noon until 6pm. Another good reason to put us on your Christmas shopping list.

> Open tonight until 8pm. Open tomorrow 12 noon - 6pm.



Selfridges: OXFORD STREET, LONDON WIA IAB TEL-071-629 1234.

High price of a chicken gag

Nigella Lawson digests a piggy helping of American comedy and a fresh slice of the home-grown variety



FAT, Dumb, Rich. the titles of the three programmes in Jonathan Ross's new series, Americana, paint the picture: this is Roseanne Arnold as only her

worst enemies see her. Sunday's edition of Funny Business gave you an inkling of why that might be seen to number anyone who has ever worked for her.

A smog of rumours surrounds the Roseanne show, a whole litary of apocrypha. A former executive producer of her show, which is beamed weekly to 80 million viewers worldwide and reckoned to have made \$140 million on syndication deals last year, once took out an advertisement in the American trade magazine Variety to explain why he and the great dame had paried company. "I have chosen not to return to the show next season," the ad ran. "Instead, my wife and I have decided to share a vacation in the relative peace and quiet of Beirm. "Oh yeah," Roseanne is reputed to have replied, "And they're not going to think you're funny in Beirut,

No. Roseanne is not durnb. Nor is she as bad as she's painted. She has just got a big appetite she chomps through people. It takes ten scriptwriters to feed her show. and these ten writers (or the ten writers who were on the show when this documentary. Feeding the Monster, was made, who have now, all but one, been replaced) were really the subject of the programme.

The now former head writer, Bob Myers, presided over the proceedings, lugubrious, anxious, waiting for those jokes to come that

TV REVIEW

are going to keep those 80 million viewers laughing, watching. At the start of the programme, which took a look at a week in the making of Roseanne, just one 22-minute show, he and his writers were happy enough in the work, crowing over their luck. A writer can make anything from \$2,000 to \$45,000 a week, and most earn something nearer the higher sum. "We get paid huge American dollars." one of his team says, "just to sit around cracking jokes and laugh and eat food out of styrofoam containers."

Telling jokes has never appeared so angst-ridden. If the joke doesn't make Roseanne laugh it's not just the joke that's out, in all probability the writer will go with it.

The problem, confides an increasingly hollow-eyed Myers, is that in earlier regimes Roseanne "felt her view was not being expressed in the final product". The new team know what's expected of them: they must keep Roseanne and her public happy. it's a big pressure, as they ali, almost one by one, troop past the documentary camera and confide to it. The line is that the show's so popular, "the number of viewers so phenomenal, you don't want to let them down, you don't want one flat

But the real pressure is the paycheck. Tom Arnold, Roseanne's husband and the programme's producer, makes that clear: the more a writer earns for telling a joke, the better that joke has got to be. "It could be over and they'll have to sell their house and things. So it's tense for them."

The show is recorded on a Friday, and by Tuesday they go

into rehearsal. This Tuesday, the one we saw on Sunday's pro gramme, things were not looking good. Roseanne was not pleased with the script and the writers were sent back for a rewrite. "Now you're going to see the shit hit the fan." Roseanne said, all smiling menace to the documentary crew: "And remember, I'm being nice because I'm on camera."

So the writers pile up the food on their styrofoam containers and prepare for an all-nighter, to consume and be consumed. Later on, they palely emerge, "so burnt out and unfunny". All this for a sitcom.

And how they agonise over the jokes. They are working on a chicken gag. "Nine chickens," intones Myers by his word-processor. "Nine chickens - because it's funnier than eight. Because nine - oh, no, nine isn't a prime number . . . " He pauses, troubled. "But it doesn't

matter. It doesn't matter because and his voice rises in pitch -"because it's chicken. Chicken's already funny, so it doesn't matter how many." Phew, well, that's a relief, then.

But Roseanne doesn't take quite this line on comedy, and this is why her show is funny and why it's hell to work on. She interferes. She doesn't want every line slick and polished and overwrought: she vants her flesh fresh.

Only the "real people on the other side of the television screen" understand her. She wants it real, too, and she wants it rough. Other sitcoms produce the gloss with spit and polish, working and reworking each scene until it's perfect. She's happy just with the spit. No take is allowed to be done more than twice: it all must go out on screen still fresh, imperfect, "with rough edges". And she's right. That is



Conspicuous consumption: Roseanne Arnold likes her writing flesh fresh and the jokes to be rough - that's why her show is funny

why Roseanne works. It's funny and it flows.

For all the agony the writers have to endure, when we see the clip from the show's opening scene ("Roseanne as Santa at the Mall which frightens all of us") at the end of Funny Business, it's still funny. The traditional, Romantic view of the writer shows an artist starving for his genius. In the age of the television sitrom, he's eaten up by it. Nadia Haggar's film was a study in the conspicuous consump-

tion of television glut-culture.

Against all this, even the grotesque gluttony of Ross's first film

Earth calling anybody

in his new series had a certain innocence. This was "only in America" stuff, and Ross routed it out, from a woman who cooks in her dishwasher — "Really, this machine is being used to a very small fraction of its potential. And Americans are meant to be inventive. It drives me nuts" - to a man who cooks dinner on his cars engine. From the Kentucky Fried Chicken Museum — "chicken was his life," murmurs the reverential guide about the founding genius, Colonel Sanders — to a game butcher, selling moose patties, lion roast, alligator (which I once ate, on

Australia Day, in The Times can-teen of all places) and whole skinned rattlesnake.

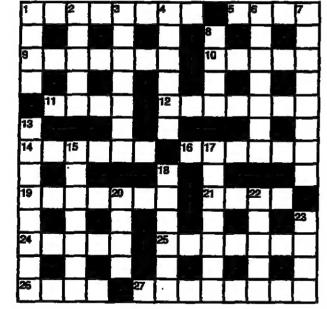
This kooky stuff is difficult to get right, but Ross pulls it off. He gives it to you straight, no sneering. A bit of teasing, perhaps, but it doesn't pay to knock this kind of kitsch. It's too easy, too obvious. You've got to love it, and Ross does.

I've been meaning to write about Absolutely Fabulous for five weeks. and it's now or never. This week was the last in the series, and although it wasn't the best in the run, it's still too good to ignore.

doesn't really go in for acting, but like her, too, she doesn't act brilliantly. The irresponsible hippyish mother, constantly up-braided by her serious, solid teenage daughter, is a bit of a one-gag routine, but the gag's good, and Saunders's script doesn't falter.
And Joanna Lumley is a revelation
in the substitution of the substitutio so much inhabit a role but performs a parody of it. Here, presented as a caricature of a rackety, booze-and-nicotine-propelled fashion editor, she breezes through her part and reveals herself as, of all things, a comic.

#The St

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DOWN

Square courtyard (4)

Mussolini state (5)

Russian emperor (4)

Baby articles (7)

Indigenous (6) Pillaging (7) Power (8)

13 Arch wall space (8)

This evening (7) 17 Selecting (7)

18 Helix (6)

22 Stroll (5)

20 Sea rise fall (4)

23 Exchange (4)

ACROSS
1 Collaborator (8)

Extra (4) Ingredients checker (7)

10 Trail (5)

11 Thames island (4) 12 Contrasting account (7)

14 Platform dog (6) 16 Cask stopper (6)

19 Without pause (3,4)21 Scottish families group (4)

24 Stiff (5)

25 Sky colour display (7) 26 Overdue (4)

27 Mine waste pile (4.4)

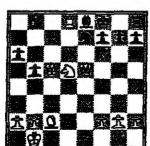
SOLUTIONS TO NO 2974 ACROSS: 1 Roll call 7 Bulge 8 Blackpool 9 Rig 10 Rush 11 Walnut 13 Hunger 14 Tennis 19 Prince 20 Brio 21 All 23 Heaviness 24 Set to 25 Betrayer DOWN: 1 Rebirth 2 Liaison 3 Cake 4 Loofah 5 Flirt 6 Weigh 7 Blunder 12 Jericho 15 Nursery 16 Sponsor 17 Scrape 18 Pansy 19 Plate 22 Tier

WINNING MOVE

By RAYMOND KEENE, Chess Correspondent

This position is taken from the game Gufeld — Plaskett. Foreign & Colonial Hastings Premier 1986/87. Jim Plaskett is one of England's most enterprising grandmasters, but here he is on the receiving end of a combination by the Soviet grandmaster Eduard Gufeld. Can you see how white won quickly? This year's Hastings tournament features the Hungarian prodigy Judit Polgar. Further details from the British Chess Federation

on 0424 442500. Send your answer on a postcard with your name and address to: The Times, I Pennington Street, London El 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday next week will win



a Bassford chess book. The answer and the winners will be printed in The Times on the following Saturday.

Solution to last Saturday's competition: I Qf6+. The winners are: G. Jarvis, Stamford; J.D. Wilks-Jones, Conwy: D. Gorst, Richmond.

WORD-WATCHING

By PHILIP HOWARD HERBERT

SLANG STONKING Smoking illicit substances b. Joy-riding in stolen cars c. Excellent, fautastic QUANDONG a. A selfish Miss Piggy b. A Chinese carry-out c. The penis

Answers on page 2

a. A scurilous and libellous b. An Anthony Eden hat PRONK a. To betray a confidence

● Equinox: ET, Please Phone Earth Sunday, Channel 4, 7pm)

Iwo months ago, Nasa embarked on a \$100 million, ten-year programme to search for radio broadcasts in outer space in the hope of finding proof of intelligent life on other planets (Nigella Lawson

This may sound like the usual crazed sci-fi stuff, but this time the scientists are in earnest. Computer software powerful enough to scan the Enclyopaedia Britan-Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (Seti) programme, tuning in daily to the great galactic radio show and whizzing through the waves to detect any signal that could possibly come from an intelligent source.

Some scientists say such a discovery could save the planet; others warn that we may be making ourselves vulnerable to intergalactic colonisation. Whatever the case - don't hold your breath.

TV PREVIEW

(Sunday, BBC2, 5.45pm)

This is the first of a daily 12-part series which unfolds in ten-minute episodes, with John Sessions playing the part of a suburban clerk much given to snobbish strivings and strategies. It is adapted from the writings of Barry Pain, a now almost completely forgotten Edwardian popular writer, who created this comic Pooterish He enjoyed a fashionable revival in the 1930s, and looks all set for another one.

(Tuesday, Channel 4, 10pm)
Some producers have all the luck. What better time to launch a second series of the royals-as-soap series - assuming, that is, that the writers have kept up to date with the latest developments. If not, what a terrible time to launch a second series.

(Christmas day, BBCI, 8pm)

This Christmas edition asks us to believe that Darryl and Chris have been banged up as a result of a fit-up. Robert Kilroy-Silk guests in a send-up of his television get-up, but my guess is that if it is all a put-up job the series will end up with no feasible set-up.

Victoria Wood's All-Day

(Christmas day, BBC1, 9pm)

Will Good Morning IV sel to re TV-am any day now, which better comedienne to bring us up to date on the latest developments in daytime television culture than Victoria Wood as one half of the latest husband-and-wife team? The targets may be easy enough — the jolly minutiae of split-end hell and calorie counting - but who else would you trust to bring you the first four-times daily soap than the Acorn Antiques team of Wood, Walters, Imrie, Blake and Preston?

TY SECRETS: GILLIAN CROSS



I HAVE a terrible weakness for children's soaps, especially Byker Grove. I tell myself that I watch them for my work as a children's author, to get a feel for pace and up-to-date dialogue. But really I just like to know what happens next. I noticed recently that PJ paid a visit to the condom machine before spending a romantic evening with Debbie, which was very responsible of him and the BBC. But I don't watch the programme because I approve of it and think it's very good for children". I just find it compulsive

Albums to purée your mind

Sweet and fragrant or

spring-loaded the music high spots of 1992



BEFORE we finally and for ever afterwards roll 1992 up into a little crinkly ball, and throw it in a

iocular fashion at a dear semi-comatose relative slumped on the sofa under a paper hat, only for it to ricochet off the copy of the Radio Times carefully draped over said relative's face, and roll for ever into irretrievability under the dresser, let us STOP ... and look back with a wry grimace and a glass of lukewarm sherry at the alburns of 1992.

Famous old people were up and about and busy not dying in '92. Lou Reed was toddling around shedding laser-beams of joy and light into all the dark corners and crevices of the world with Magic and Loss, and Neil Young scraped at what could be termed the metaphorical Scabs of Genius. letting Harvest Moon bleed forth down his knees and gather in an impressive clot between his toes. They're good; but everyone will tell you that. I got other things on my

The US band Pavement released an album this year. It's their début. It's perfect. Each track has staggering (as in intoxicated) poise and a dozen reeling guitar-spangles per bar. Stanted and Enchanted (Big Cat, all formats) will buzz-saw into your head and screw itself in there, so



Levitation: a cold sweat slide on to the Upper Levels

that when you talk, you start leaking the lyrics all over your sentences. Disposable Heroes of Hiphoprisy will probably be keeping Pavement com-pany in the tippy-top part of the charts during 1993. Hipocrisy is the Greatest Luxury (Island, all formats) shakes and judders and drips with disenchantment. You need to read a couple of song titles to see just what the lyrics are like Television. Drug of the Nation": "Financial Leprosy": "Socio Genetic Experiment".

Throwing Muses are, as I explained some weeks back, one of the few reasons why God hasn't torched the planet yet and done with the whole yucky affair. The LP Red Heaven (4AD Records, all formats) has a trawl through disgust and hate and other worldly growly voices in a track called "Furious"; and the sticky and obsessive track, 'Pearl".

The Sundays skipped sweetly and fragrantly back on to the music scene after three years absence with Blind (Parlophone, all formats). I'm still in love with their habit of shifting around in a haze of splay-fingered, edge-of-obsession guitars and Harriet's soaring, shimmer-edged, chewy vocal things. What Do You Think? has a guitarsound like your heart being thrown over the roof of your house, and even though I may be damned and go to Meta-phor Hall for that one, I wouldn't care. I adore this band unreservedly.

Levitation ... music is being spring-loaded and

shoved places it's never gone before with Need For Not (Rough Trade, all formats). You know that moment just after a nightmare, and you realise time's speeding up and you really do have a very short amount of time to stain some parts of the world with your colours? Levitation has distilled that moment in the track "Hangnail" — a cold sweat slide on to the patented Upper

and rolls and rolls into forever. The Dutch band Bettie Serveert are shuffling towards a Vast Cash Situation with Palomine (4AD, all formats). Carol van Dijk has the most affecting fissures and splinters in her voice, and the tunes have a way of wrapping themselves around your ankles and preventing you from walking

Levels, and "Coterie" just rolls

Veteran Australian guitarmeister Ed Kuepper did something he does quite regularly — released another glory-riddled LP. It is quite amusing that people persist in calling Eric Clapton God, when Ed Kuepper can take every nerve ending in your body and fuss and melt them into a lump of solid awe. Kuepper crochets every emotion you had when you were in love, or wanted to believe so badly that you were, and I can't recommend Honey Steel's Gold (UFO/HOT records, all formats) enough. And to finish, PJ Harvey, because she's going to be so important and polarising and just basically brilliant in the next year. This years Dry album from Too Pure (all formats) had so many classic tunes it was hard to believe Mike and Keef hadn't died and decided to write something decent again for a change. There's many mindpureeing albums out there. God I love music.

CAITLIN MORAN

Minus Shelter Minus Food

Althoughtes a desperate shortage of food.

Today from sastern Europe to Asia, 7 million people are cold and hungry. More than half of them are from less too.

At 20°C, hundreds of thousands will die unless we do something to help urgently. Oxfam has stocks of blankets and food; but we desperately need money to send them to those in need.

You can help. £20 could send 98 blankets to help families survive the cold this Christmas.

Please send a donation to Oxfam today.



I want to help. Here is my donation: Oxfam Cold Front Appeal, Room BE89, FREEPOST, Oxford DX2 7BR. To donate by credit card

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